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SECTION

THE TIMES

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MONDAY MAY 20 1996

OUT OF THE UNKNOWN
LABOUR OF LOVE
THAT BROUGHT
HIDDEN DEGAS TO THE
NATIONAL GALLERY
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MATTHEW PARRIS
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Hill's despair as Monaco field falls apart, PAGE 21
WIN TICKETS
For Euro 96, PAGE 9 PLUS a chance to see
England v India at the Oval on Thursday PAGE 27



1,000 teenagers evacuated from Dartmoor blizzard

By Nigel Williamson
MORE than 1,000 teenagers taking part in an expedition on Dartmoor had to be rescued yesterday as driving rain, gale-force winds and snow on high ground swept southern Britain.
Army organisers were forced to abandon the annual Ten Tors trek in appalling weather when only 360 of the original 2,400 starters had finished the two-day walk by mid-afternoon. A further 800 had already been taken off the blizzard-swept moor, leaving more than 1,200 youngsters aged between 14 and 19 in the foul conditions.
Within an hour a fleet of Land Rovers and Army trucks had ferried all but a handful of walkers back to base at Okehampton. Two Navy Sea King and two Army Gazelle helicopters joined the search across more than 50 square miles of barren moor, equipped with night vision equipment and spotlights. By early evening all had been accounted for.
The youngsters, who were walking in 400 six-strong teams, all carried their own food, water, bedding and tents. The teams, aged between 14 and 19, were aiming to reach ten nominated tors on one of 26 routes, covering 35, 45 or 55 miles, depending on age.
Anxious parents were kept informed. Sharon Conn, a spokeswoman for the Army, which organised the event, said: "We have had quite a few cases of mild hypothermia but it is the sort which can be treated by a warm blanket and a hot cup of tea."
Temperatures and conditions were last night returning to near the seasonal norm, but forecasters say that there is still no sign of summer making its belated arrival.
The Royal Navy rescued seven people stranded overnight on board a dredger which ran aground at Langstone Harbour, Hants. At Poole, Dorset, 40 people were evacuated from boats by police. Thirteen Dutch nationals were rescued in hospital after being rescued by a Sea King helicopter from their yacht off Suffolk.
Police said scores of trees had been blown down, blocking roads at Reading, Berkshire, East Molesley, Surrey, and on the Isle of Wight.
Temperatures this week for the Chelsea Flower Show, which opens to members of the Royal Horticultural Society tomorrow and to the public on Thursday, should return to a seasonal average of 16C (61F). A Meteorological Office spokesman said: "Mid-spring rather than summer is on the way. Prospects for the Bank Holiday weekend are reasonably favourable."

Labour's Big Four to form inner Cabinet

By Peter Riddell and Philip Webster
TONY BLAIR is likely to create a small inner Cabinet to co-ordinate and direct strategy if Labour wins the general election.
The group would consist of Mr Blair, John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, the "big four" of the present party leadership. They would probably be joined by Donald Dewar, now Chief Whip, who would have a central role in supervising far-reaching constitutional and other reforms through Parliament.
Mr Blair's advisers believe the central machinery of government needs to be strengthened to ensure that there is no loss of momentum and that focus is kept on the main objectives.
The idea of creating what has been provisionally called a "strategy and legislative priorities committee" has come from lengthy discussions among Mr Blair's advisers and Derek Foster and Peter Mandelson of the shadow Civil Service team. Some senior civil servants, including serving permanent secretaries, have given their informal views and Mr Blair and Mr Prescott are likely to take firm decisions later in the summer.
Various ideas are still being discussed informally, including giving the Cabinet Secretary and the Cabinet Office a more active role in ensuring the implementation of the Government's programme. But radical proposals for creating a Prime Minister's department, Continental style cabinets of special advisers to senior ministers, and the large-scale introduction of political advisers into Whitehall have all been rejected.
Some members of the Shadow Cabinet are pressing for the revival of the old Think Tank, which was abolished in 1983, although Mr Blair is believed to be more interested in strengthening the existing Downing Street policy unit.
Past prime ministers have often set up special groups of ministers informally — or formally during emergencies or wars — but inner cabinets have rarely lasted for long because they create jealousies among those excluded.
Labour policymakers have meanwhile decided to stage a series of referendums on directly-elected assemblies in the English regions if they win the general election, although the party's plans for a Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly will take precedence.
The idea was approved — along with a large chunk of the party's general election programme — at the National Policy Forum in Manchester, which proved generally harmonious after a week of reports of personality clashes and policy divisions.
But senior party figures were furious over an apparent gaffe by Michael Meacher, the Shadow Employment Secretary, who today goes beyond



Alex Greaves has ridden 172 winners and been champion lady jockey four times. Her chance to make Derby history now depends on a 500-1 outsider

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT
Derby first for woman jockey
A WOMAN jockey has been booked to ride in the Derby next month for the first time in the 216-year history of the world's most famous flat race. Alex Greaves, 28, is set to partner Portuguese Lil, a 500-1 outsider trained by her husband, David Nicholls.
Greaves, four times champion lady jockey, hopes she will have the chance to add another page to the colourful history of a classic first run in 1780. "I never dreamt of riding in the Derby and it would be lovely to have the opportunity," she said yesterday.
Just 5ft tall and weighing 8st 4lb, Greaves has ridden 172 winners during her career. A farmer's daughter who has been riding since she was four, she first made her name with winners on all-weather tracks at Southwell and Lingfield which led to her being dubbed the "Queen of the Sand." More recently, she has competed successfully on the turf against

Defiant Karadzic clings to power

By Eve-Anne Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent
RADOVAN KARADZIC was believed to be in full control of the Bosnian Serb republic yesterday, even though he nominally handed over some of his responsibilities at the weekend.
Dr Karadzic, who has been indicted as a war criminal, has delegated some of his powers to a hard-line nationalist known as the Iron Lady and promoted another to Prime Minister. The moves are seen as a tactical victory over Carl Bildt, the senior Western civilian peace negotiator in Bosnia, who had been trying to promote the cause of moderate Bosnian Serbs and bring about Dr Karadzic's downfall.
Biljana Plavsic takes responsibility for international negotiations and another extreme nationalist, Gojko Kljickovic, becomes Prime Minister in place of Rajko Kasagic, the moderate promoted by the West.
Mr Kljickovic is a loyal supporter of Dr Karadzic and opposes the return of Muslim refugees to Serb-held parts of Bosnia as laid down in the Dayton peace agreement.
Plavsic known as the Iron Lady
West outflanked, page 10



Cantona out of Euro 96

Eric Cantona has failed to win a place in the French squad for the Euro 96 championship next month, in spite of being named footballer of the year in England.
Cantona, who was the inspiration behind Manchester United's League and FA Cup double, is not the only famous absentee. David Ginola of Newcastle United has also been omitted. Page 24
Tickets offer, page 9

Pru faces revolt by shareholders

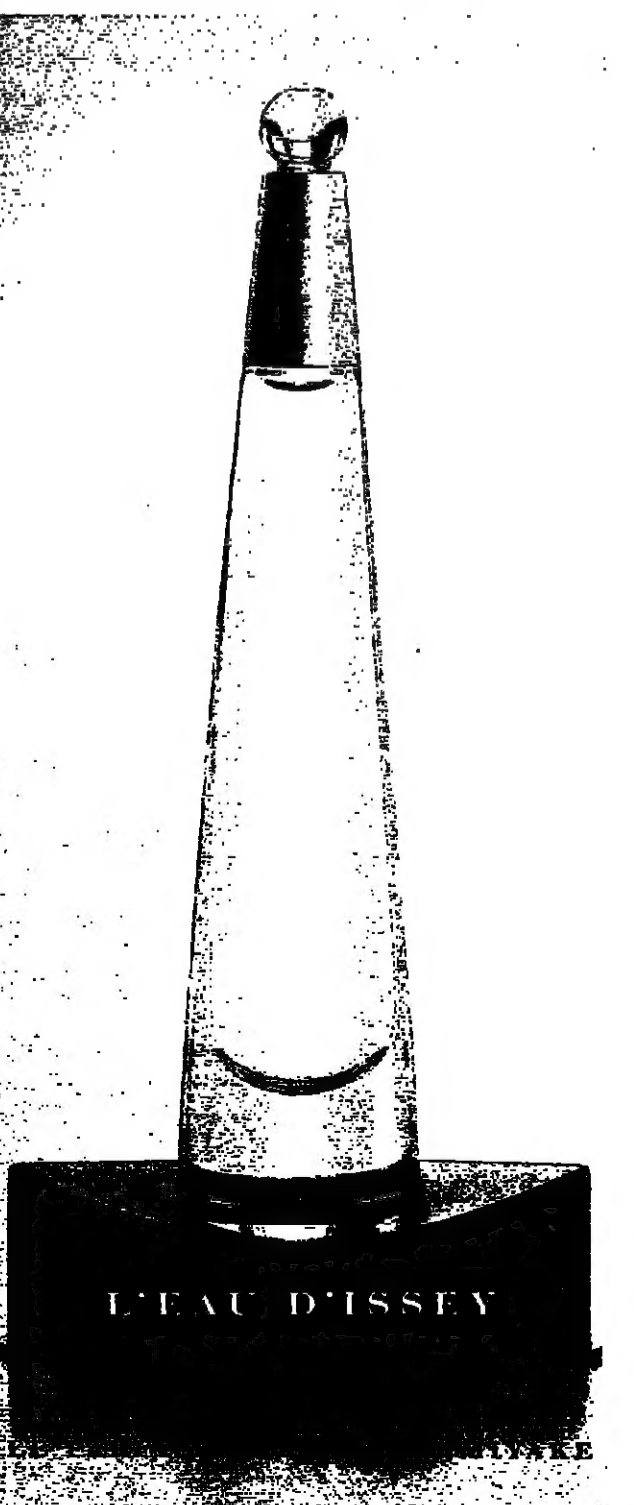
The Prudential Corporation, which owns 3.5 per cent of the UK stock market, looks set to face a shareholder revolt over a new executive bonus scheme that rewards directors even if the company is an underperformer within the top 100 quoted companies. Page 40

Couple murdered

The bodies of a British woman and her French husband have been found in the boot of their Mercedes at the bottom of a canal in eastern France. They had taken £70,000 out of their bank account before disappearing six weeks ago. Page 3

Beef hope

Britain's European partners may finally agree today to ease the export ban on some beef products. George Brock, page 10
William Rees-Mogg, page 16



Railtrack yields instant profits

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent
RAILTRACK shares are expected to soar to an instant profit on the stock market this morning as Britain's railways are restored to private ownership almost half a century after being nationalised.
Labour attacked the sale as a cynical giveaway but City dealers predicted that 665,000 small investors could see an instant 20p per share return on the first day's trading. SBC
Warburg, the Government's City advisers, announced a share price of 390p for institutions and 380p for private investors. Small shareholders have so far had to put up only a 190p first instalment for their shares.
The response to the offer has exceeded all expectations with the Government receiving £12 billion worth of applications for the £19.3 billion shares being sold. The retail offer was three times subscribed and the institutional offer was ten times subscribed.
However, Labour accused the Government of selling the company too cheaply and warned investors that the party would move quickly to impose controls.
Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "Anything will sell if it is priced cheaply enough. The Government take no credit from this most unpopular of privatisations. If people look at Labour's policy and still want to buy — fine. But lots of them think they're going to make lots and lots of money like they did out of electricity, and they won't."
Railtrack profit, page 40

Radio 3 switches off Paul Gambaccini

By Stephen Farrell
PAUL GAMBACCINI, the former Radio 1 disc jockey described as the "most hated man on radio" when he took over as presenter of Radio 3's Morning Collection, is to leave the show.
The announcement, eight months after the programme's launch, will be seen as a victory for traditionalists who saw the arrival of the 47-year-old American presenter from the rival Classic FM as taking the station downmarket. One listener compared Gambaccini's style to "wallowing in blanchmange", and a commentator raved the arrival of "Radio Two and a Half".
Gambaccini last night insisted he was leaving because of other commitments, including his work on Radio 4's Kaleidoscope and GMTV.
But the BBC admitted he had failed to attract more listeners to the crucial 9am weekday slot previously occupied by the long-established Composer of the Week. Ratings for January to March were no better than last year's.
A BBC spokeswoman said that the programme's run had been extended until March 1998, although no decision has been made on who will take over from Gambaccini in September. "The format of the programme is extremely popular and people like the music," she said. "Some have implied it was lollipop-type music, but it was not. It was very good Radio 3 fare."

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

SPORT

Play Euro Interactive Team Football, with a top prize of £25,000
PLUS: The Libby Purves column



WEDNESDAY

FASHION

The great hat guide
PLUS: 15 digital cordless phones to be won, in Interface

THURSDAY

FILMS

Richard Gere in *Primal Fear*, and other films of the week
PLUS: The best of books

FRIDAY

POP

Ice-T's autobiographical album, *Return of the Real*
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

THE ROYAL TOUR

Sarah Bradford takes the Queen on the road, in the *Magazine*
PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and *Vision*, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK COLLECT
TOKENS TO WIN EURO 96 TICKETS

Tories investigate claim of Serb donations

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

AN INVESTIGATION into claims that Serb businessmen linked to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, gave more than £100,000 to Conservative funds was ordered yesterday by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman.

The Tories were dealt a further blow by Sir Colin Marshall, next president of the Confederation of British Industry, who declared it was inappropriate for companies to make donations to party funds.

The allegations in *The Sunday Times* that the donations by Serb businessmen had been made at the height of the war in the former Yugoslavia provoked an outcry from the Opposition parties.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the report was "exceedingly disturbing" and wrote

to the Prime Minister asking whether there was any substance in it. "If it is true then I am sure you will understand that this will be regarded as a scandal, given that the Government was claiming to be 'neutral' in this conflict and that British troops were on the ground in Bosnia at the time," Mr Ashdown wrote.

Dr Mawhinney said he had no reason to believe there was any impropriety. A second donation, said to have been about £50,000, was reportedly arranged in December 1994 after John Kennedy, a prospective Tory parliamentary candidate, contacted Jeremy Hanley, then party chairman. The source was reported to be a London-based Serbian businessman. It was allegedly discussed over lunch with Mr Hanley at Mark's Club in Mayfair. Mr Hanley

said yesterday that he was not aware of the alleged donations but asked whether he met the businessman, Mr Hanley replied: "Yes, I did. I had lunch with him at the suggestion, and at the invitation, of Mr Kennedy." He said they talked about trade in metals in which the businessman dealt. "If he donated to the Conservative Party then that is a matter which is something we will not disclose. When I was chairman I made sure that the rules were enforced."

Mr Kennedy dismissed the allegations as "fantastic nonsense". "I have not raised any amount, either in total or in part, of either £50,000 or £100,000 as has been claimed," he said.

Dr Mawhinney said: "Ever since I have been party chairman, I have insisted that party donations observe our strict rules of propriety. We do not accept funds with conditions

attached from foreign governments, from anonymous donors and from criminal sources. If any of these rules are found to have been transgressed, the money will be returned."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, told BBC TV's *Breakfast With Frost*: "In order to make money inside Serbia, or inside Radovan Karadzic's section of Bosnia, you need to have links with the governing politicians. There is, unfortunately, no escaping that — given the power balance in both Serbia and even more in the [Serb-held areas of] Bosnia."

Lawyers acting for the unnamed "Serb" businessman said by *The Sunday Times* to have been involved in an alleged £50,000 donation to Tory funds yesterday firmly rejected the newspaper's claims. Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners said in a statement: "Our client is a British citizen

of Yugoslav birth and has been resident in the UK for over a decade. "Our client is outraged by any suggestion that he is linked in any way to Radovan Karadzic or the Bosnian Serbs. We are instructed that our client has never met, communicated with, or been associated with, Radovan Karadzic in any way whatsoever."

The remarks by Sir Colin, who is chairman of British Airways and takes over his CBI post on Wednesday, were particularly unwelcome at a time when the Tories are trying to boost their pre-election income. He said some companies gave cash to the parties, but added: "I personally believe that it is not appropriate to do that. I think that if one wants to make a contribution, one should make it on a personal basis."

Graham Scargant, page 38

Ashdown strategy to scorn Tory 'false patriots'

By PHILIP WEBSTER

PADDY ASHDOWN will seek to wrest the patriotism vote from the Conservatives tonight by accusing John Major of failing to stand up to "petty xenophobic nationalism" in his party.

The Liberal Democrat leader is preparing to use a strategic speech to party candidates to charge that the Conservatives have abused and debased patriotism, and as "false patriots" they no longer deserve the nation's trust. In a fierce attack on the government stance on Europe and the constitution, he will say that true patriots know it is insulting to see Conservatives wrapping themselves in the flag and pretending that only a stubborn resistance to institutional change would preserve the United Kingdom.

Mr Ashdown, a former Marine who also served as a diplomat, is said by aides to be furious at what he sees as a Conservative abuse of patriotism. His speech is clearly designed to tell his party that it should move on to one of the Tories' chosen battlegrounds at the General Election. Polls over the past three years have shown Mr Ashdown standing

well on patriotism, particularly among Tory voters.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Ashdown said he believed the Conservatives were preparing to fight the election on the "most negative, xenophobic and closed view" of Britain. His charge now went beyond the Eurosceptics. The Conservative devaluation of patriotism had "infected" the whole Government, he argued.

Mr Ashdown said the Prime Minister's instincts were pro-European but his "total failure

of leadership" and "appalling vacillation" had enabled the xenophobes and sceptics to take charge. He disclosed that during the passage of the Maastricht bill, he had told Mr Major that he could count on the Liberal Democrats for support, at the cost of electoral popularity, to "put down your xenophobic rightwingers" and to win the battle for the long term.

"But he always put his party before the country," Mr Ashdown said. "There can be no worse charge to lay against

a leader than to say that he consistently, in the face of serious challenges, put the unity of his party before the best interests of the country. In so doing, he has handed his party lock, stock and barrel to the xenophobic tendency of the Conservative Right."

"The best history will say of him was that he held his party together. But if it divides, the seeds of destruction will have been sown under him. I am angry they have allowed this narrow anti-European tendency to fester and dominate

newspapers." Asked why the Liberal Democrats — rather than Labour — could claim the patriotic mantle, he said: "We have never gone political walkabout."

"We have stayed firm on Europe even when it caused us political disadvantage. We are united. The 70 anti-European Labour MPs will be just as much a ball and chain around Mr Blair's foot as have been the Euro sceptic Tory MPs to

Sceptic makeover, page 15



Country man: Mr Ashdown with his dog Luke, taking a break from a weekend meeting outside Oxford

Appeal for Gardiner support

Conservative activists threatening to deselect the senior right-wing MP Sir George Gardiner were given a warning yesterday to stop rocking the boat or risk the survival of the Government. Sir George's fate will be decided at a local party meeting in his Reigate constituency on June 28.

Richard Bennett, leader of the local council's Conservative group, said: "There has been a lot of talk about Sir George and loyalty to the Prime Minister. But surely the ultimate disloyalty would be to deselect a long-standing MP and pave the way for a by-election at a time when the Government has a majority of one."

3 die in shooting

An off-duty soldier has killed two men, wounded his estranged girlfriend and shot himself dead with a handgun in a house in north Belfast. The soldier, a member of the Royal Irish Regiment, had earlier been ejected from a club after arguing with his girlfriend and had made a threatening call to the house. Police said the deaths were not terrorist related.

GEC director dies

Simon Weinstock, son of Lord Weinstock, the founder and managing director of the General Electric Company, has died of cancer at the age of 44. He had been commercial director and a board member of GEC, one of Britain's largest industrial companies, since 1987, and was also a major shareholder. He leaves a widow, Laura, and three daughters.

Prison condoms

Prison doctors have been told they can prescribe condoms to homosexual inmates to prevent them becoming infected from unprotected sex in their cells. A Prison Service circular sent to all heads of healthcare and governors gives a warning that failure to provide condoms could in some circumstances leave doctors open to charges of failing in their duty to care for patients.

Monty honoured

The first statue on French soil of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, who led the British D-Day landings, is to be unveiled on June 6. The bronze, created by Vivien Mallock, will be unveiled by Prince Michael of Kent in Colleville-Montgomery, a few miles from Caen, which was named after Montgomery at the end of the Second World War.

Brontë denial

Authorities on Charlotte Brontë dismissed a claim by Ian King, an Edinburgh bookseller, that she was the author of two more novels: the previously anonymous *Sad Times*, and *Miss Miles*, published under the name of a contemporary, Mary Taylor. Professor Sally Shuttleworth, of Sheffield University, said a detailed chronology existed of Brontë's writings.

Police look at serial killer link to 200 deaths

By ADRIAN LEE

DETECTIVES from police forces in England and Wales will meet today to discuss links between the murders of up to 200 women. The exercise, Operation Enigma, will consider the possible existence of one or more serial killers.

The conference, at the headquarters of the West Mercia police, will reopen the files on murders dating from up to ten years ago, although detectives said that the operation was not a murder inquiry.

The exercise, co-ordinated by James Dickinson, Assistant Chief Constable of Essex, will study ways of improving investigations into possible multiple killings by harnessing the skills of criminologists in Britain and abroad. The National Criminal Intelligence Service, the Forensic Science Service and the recently founded National Crime Faculty will also be involved. Mr Dickinson said it would be "pure speculation" as to whether any definite links would emerge between the murders.

In December detectives from several forces discussed links between the apparently similar deaths of nine women, who were strangled, left naked or partially clothed and their bodies dumped. They concluded that there was nothing formally to link the murders.

£8bn Euro-frigate faces long delay as navies disagree

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW frigate planned for the Royal Navy is facing "endless delays" because of disagreements with the French and Italian navies over design details, according to an authoritative report to be published this week.

The £8 billion Horizon project, a collaborative programme involving the three countries, is intended to produce a total of 20 advanced frigates for the next century, 12 of which are for the Royal Navy to replace the existing Type 42 destroyers.

Captain Richard Sharpe, editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, whose latest edition is due out this week, said the frigate looked to be going the same way as the disastrous NFR90 warship programme, which collapsed in 1990 because each country had different design requirements.

Captain Sharpe said Horizon was now facing the same challenge, with every decision needing approval in triplicate, which inevitably led to delays. He said yesterday: "The first Type 42 destroyer to be taken out of service will be HMS *Birmingham* in 1998, but there's not the slightest chance of the first Horizon frigate being in service until 2005."

He said that the endless delays caused by the collaboration between the three countries meant that the programme was being "put back nine months for every year it goes forward."

In August last year, the National Audit Office warned that the Horizon project could take four years longer than originally planned. The Royal Navy had hoped to have the first Horizon frigates in service by 2002. The NAO said Horizon was likely to be one of the most complex procurements ever undertaken by the Ministry of Defence and said the proposed timescale was "extremely optimistic."

The F22, which will be the rival in the export market to the Eurofighter, will replace the F15. The Joint Strike Fighter will replace seven existing aircraft.

US maintains air accord

TWO US combat aircraft that are due to come into service next century are to be based in Britain. The advanced F22 Stealth fighter is due in service by 2005 and the Joint Strike Fighter, a multiple mission tactical aircraft, by about 2010. The decision has underlined Washington's intention to maintain the US Air Force's link with Britain.

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Under the Bar's latest proposals, drawn up by Hilary Heilbrunn, QC, a leading member of the Bar Council, people who go to CABs where staff are suitably trained and qualified to prepare a case for counsel can then go directly to barristers.

The move applies both to legally aided and privately funded cases.

David Penry-Davey, QC, chairman of the Bar, said: "These proposals would significantly widen the public's access to justice and reduce the cost of legal services while maintaining the Bar's essential status as a referral profession."

Details of the proposals have now to be worked out between the Bar and the

lawyers for disputes involving less than £10,000.

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National Association of Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Walter Merricks, head of public relations at the Law Society, expressed concern that any group of people who were going to take on the task of being responsible for the conduct of litigation would have to be trained to the appropriate standard and apply for approval, as required under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Solicitors and barristers will offer their services free on a rota basis at the Citizens' Advice Bureau in the Royal Courts of Justice. The scheme was recommended by a working party headed by Lord Justice Otton, set up partly because of the big rise in people taking disputes to court on their own.

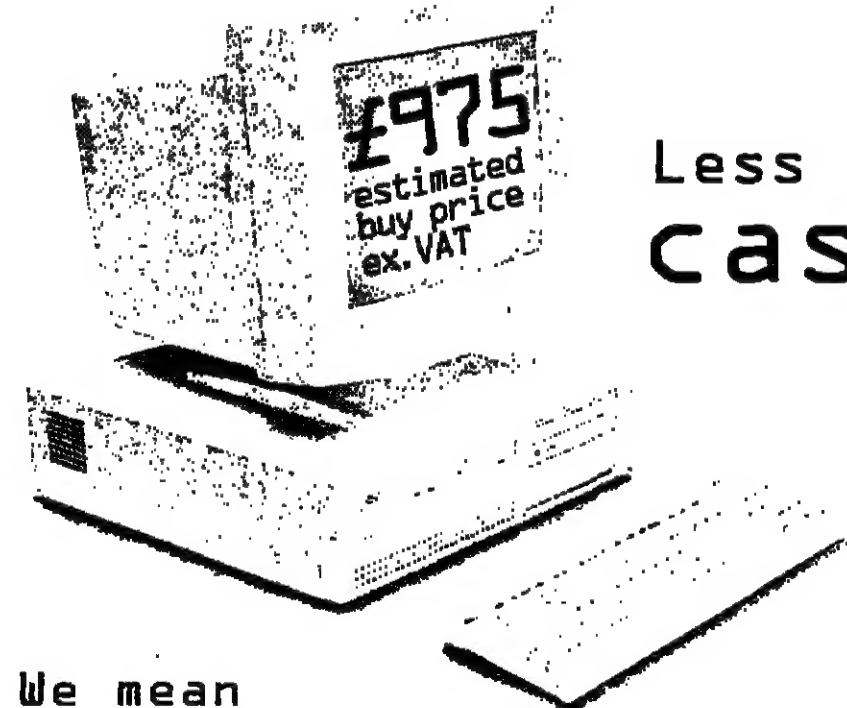
Streamlined route to court approved

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of people who take their disputes to Citizens' Advice Bureaux are to be given "fast-track" access to a barrister without having to go through a solicitor.

The move, which will cut the cost of paying for two lawyers, was approved by the Bar Council, the Bar's governing body, at the weekend. It is the first significant step towards giving clients direct access to barristers.

The move has been approved by Lord Woolf, the law lord overseeing a review of civil justice. He is proposing putting a ceiling on legal costs that can be run up by



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Missing couple found dead in car boot at bottom of French canal

BY SUSAN BELL, IN PARIS, AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH woman and her French husband have been found murdered in their car at the bottom of a canal in eastern France.

Alain and Angela Hay, who dealt in luxury cars, had withdrawn £70,000 from their bank account shortly before they went missing more than six weeks ago.

The money has not been recovered and French police suspect they were the motive for the double killing. They dismissed links with the mysterious deaths of two Germans in the same region a week ago.

The bodies of the Hays were found on Saturday in the boot of their purple Mercedes 300, with German number plates, when tracks were noticed leading from the road to the canal, near the village of Niffer, in Alsace.

The couple's poodle was also found dead inside the car, which was first thought to have skidded off the road on a bend, known locally as an accident blackspot. It was well known that cars often left the road there and it would have made the perfect spot to try to conceal a vehicle. The canal, where the car was submerged in deep water, runs along the main N52 between St Louis and Mulhouse.

A French police officer said:

"We favour the theory that the motive for this crime was theft." Police said they believed the couple were carrying the cash with them in the car and were on their way to conduct a deal. The choice of place to hide the car may indicate that the murderer was local.

The bodies of the Hays had been in the water for several weeks and were badly decomposed. Police said Mr Hay had a glass eye, which enabled them to identify him. Mrs Hay was identified by her wedding ring.

The couple, both 46, had been living in the Channel port of Le Havre, where they planned to establish a business importing cars. Police said Mr and Mrs Hay, who

were last seen on April 2, were longstanding residents of Le Havre but had been conducting business in the Mulhouse area, near the German border, since February.

They had rented an apartment there but in late March they drove to Le Havre, where Mr Hay withdrew 500,000 francs from his bank. On the Hays' return to Mulhouse at the beginning of April they told a friend that they intended to travel to Switzerland for a business meeting. They had recently sold him a car and said they would deliver papers relating to the French equivalent of the MOT test on their return.

Post-mortem examinations will be held today to discover how they died. A spokeswoman

for the Foreign Office said it had not yet been notified by the French authorities.

The disappearance of the couple was reported in the local daily newspaper, *L'Alsace*, but there had been no trace of them until the discovery of the car. French police said Mrs Hay came from Portsmouth, before marrying and settling in France, where the couple's two grown-up children, who reported them missing, also live.

Police said the deaths of the two Germans nearby were either suicide and murder, but there was nothing to link them to the discovery of Mrs Hay and her husband. The charred bodies of a man and a woman aged 32 and 34 were found in a burnt-out mountain chalet near Colmar, north of Mulhouse.

Police refused to identify the victims until genetic tests confirmed who they were, but authorities suspected they were the couple who rented the property. Also guilty by fire was the couple's Volkswagen, which had licence plates from Freiburg, Germany. The chalet belonged to Udi Halder and Harald Brehm, both from Heilshausen, near Freiburg. Herr Halder was questioned by German police last week.

Stabbed van driver 'victim of road rage'

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A DRIVER was stabbed to death in front of his girlfriend on a motorway slip-road yesterday in a suspected "road rage" attack. Police are searching for the driver of a Land Rover Discovery which sped off after the incident.

The victim was stabbed in the chest after he and another motorist got out of their cars while waiting at traffic lights on a roundabout at junction three of the M25 near Swanley, Kent. The incident was witnessed by another driver, who alerted emergency services on a mobile telephone.

The victim, who was driving a Bedford van, was taken to West Hill hospital, Dartford, where he died from his injuries. His passenger was treated for shock.

Kent police said the victim, believed to be from the Swanley area, and his attacker had stopped on the slip-road just before the assault happened. Inspector Dick Valentine said: "The reason for the attack is not known. It was obviously a moment of madness, but what brought that on we do not know."

Police said that the attacker, described as white and in his forties, sped off in the direction of the Dartford Tunnel. They are not releasing the identity of the murder victim. Last night they were scanning through closed-circuit television cameras at the interchange to see if any of the incident was caught on film.



Life imitates art: Victoria Eastham, from the London English Ballet School, and *Dancer with Bouquets*, from the Degas exhibition running at the National Gallery until August 26. Preview, page 12; leading article, page 17

Jungle hostages home for a bath and Sunday lunch

BY ANDREW DRUMMOND

THE four young Britons rescued from kidnappers in Indonesia began the adjustment to normal life yesterday after returning "from the Stone Age" and their 129 days in captivity.

Before being driven home to Sunday lunch with their families, two of the four scientists who had been seized by rebels of the Free Papua Movement spoke of their ordeal. They had been led for four months through remote jungle by warriors armed with poisoned spears, machetes, arrows and blowpipe darts.

Daniel Start, 21, William Oates, 23, Anna McIvor, 21, and Annette van der Kolk, 22, all Cambridge graduates, flew into Heathrow yesterday morning to be reunited with their families. They were also

greeted by Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister. Mr Start said: "It's lovely to be back on a typical spring day - cloudy. It's a culture-shock to be back after half a year living in the Stone Age." They were all in a state of shock after witnessing the brutal deaths of their Indonesian research colleagues Navy Panekanan and Yosias Lasamahu last week, he said.

Mr Oates said: "It's great to be back. We spent a long time sitting thinking of the things we were missing. We are sad to have left two good friends back in the forest," he added. "We were treated extremely well, especially by the local community who made many sacrifices to look after us."

Miss van der Kolk enjoyed a

quiet Sunday lunch of roast beef with her parents at home in Fleet, Hampshire, and a long rest. Looking pale and thin after losing more than three stone during her captivity, she said: "I am very glad to be home although the happiness is marred by the death of our two Indonesian friends. I really don't know what my plans are. I will just be taking it easy."

Miss McIvor, 21, hugged her parents Susan and Malcolm as they arrived home in Bournemouth from Heathrow but declined to go into details about her captivity. She had watched helplessly from a tree as the two Indonesian captives were killed by the rebels when special forces attacked their jungle base last week. Standing outside her family home, she said her plans were simply to relax and recover from her weight loss.

Mr Start told of how the rebel leader Kallik Kwalik had changed his mind ten minutes before their promised release, on May 8. "We went back into the jungle reduced to tears. From that moment on the military had to go in."

Yesterday he spent the day soaking in the bath and strolling around Wimbledon Common with his mother. He had to "keep doing a reality-check", he said, because he could not believe he was really home.

Mr Oates's return to his father Richard's farm in the Scottish borders was heralded with a skirl of pipes by a family friend, Peter Tweedie.



Annette van der Kolk and Anna McIvor at Heathrow

Eagles hide from prying eyes

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE only pair of breeding golden eagles in England, which hatched a chick 11 days ago, remained oblivious to the scores of ornithologists who had travelled to catch a glimpse of their eyrie at the weekend.

A mile away from the raised ranks of binoculars the female eagle sat protectively in a nest perched on a craggy rock-face in the Riggindale Valley, Cumbria. The male had left the nest earlier to hunt further along the valley. The watchers had to stand behind a drystone wall, dis-

guised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds as a safe distance away. More than a hundred of them pleaded under their breath for the birds to make an appearance. "Just one peep, just pop your head out of the nest. Please, please, please," said one man who had left Northampton at 4am that day. "I need to go to the loo, but I can't. The minute I leave my perch the bird will come out."

Although there are at least 400 breeding pairs in Scotland, this pair, which have been together for 14 years, have been the only breeding pair in England for the past 12

years, but had failed to produce a chick for three years. The male is at least 24 years old and believed to be the oldest wild bird in the British Isles. Until this chick was born it was unclear if an eagle of this age could still be fertile. Andy Schofield, the RSPB's eagle warden, said:

"The future is bleak because once this pair go from here or die, the chance of young eagles coming here to live is very remote. The young simply cannot put up with the noise and head to Scotland, but this pair have built up an amazing tolerance. They are very special."

Sir Norman Foster's masterpiece in steel.

Not for the first time, Sir Norman Foster examines the familiar stainless steel Rolex GMT-Master on his wrist.

"I would say it is a design classic," he says, then continues by explaining that he admires how functional it is, how simply and directly it communicates information to him, and how he uses its rotatable bezel to check way-points when he is piloting his helicopter.

For Sir Norman Foster, good design is generated by people's needs. He has answered these needs with outstanding architectural solutions in his native England, throughout Europe, and - most notably - in Hong Kong.

It was Foster's design for the headquarters of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank that confirmed his position at the forefront of international architecture.



This supremely elegant building epitomises many of Foster's beliefs as an architect.

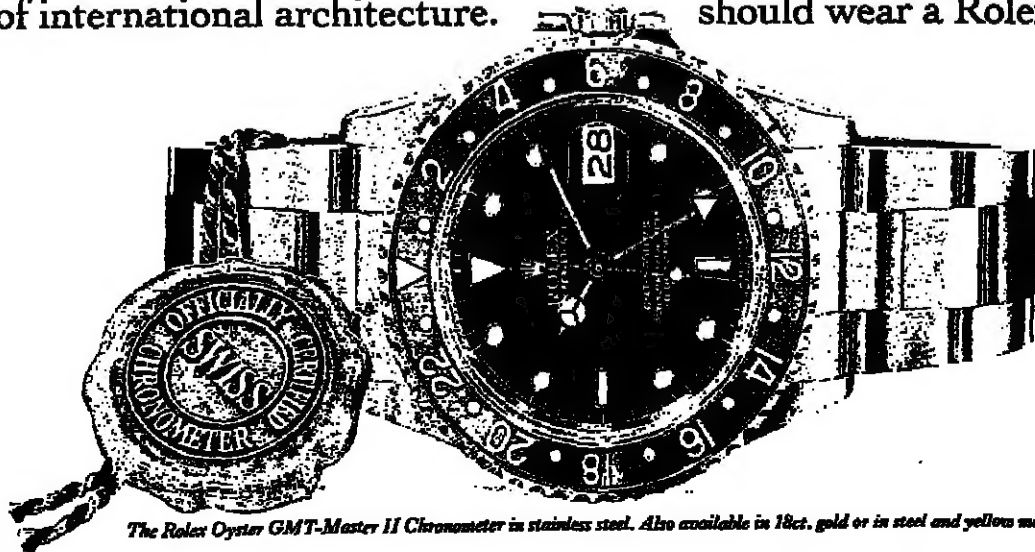
The interior is extraordinarily light and airy. This is achieved by a breath-taking complex of steel supports which leave vast uncluttered spaces for the people who work there, and by a unique 'sunscope' which follows the progress of the sun and funnels light down into the atrium.

Then there is Foster's legendary attention to detail. He has enormous concern for the way in which things are put together and immense respect for the materials he uses.

As one architectural reviewer has commented: "Foster takes engineering materials and treats them like jewellery."

Is it any surprise that he should wear a Rolex?


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A two-part report on the threat to next month's championship: today, police plans to prevent clashes

Neo-fascists aim to stamp their mark on Euro 96

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

ORGANISED groups of rival fans with links to neo-fascist parties are planning violent clashes to disrupt the European football championship in England next month.

In spite of a massive security operation, police fear that Euro 96, the biggest sports event ever staged in Britain, could be ruined by hooligans as they battle for supremacy during the three-week tournament. Both the last two European championships, in Germany in 1988 and Sweden in 1992, were marred by clashes between England followers and European fans.

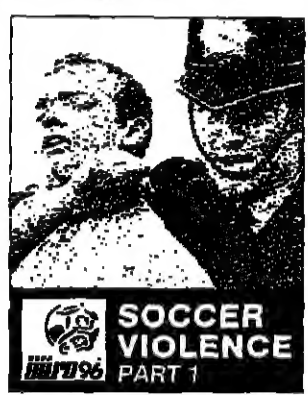
Police intelligence units have learnt that some of the expected 250,000 foreign supporters are planning to cause similar havoc in England during a championship promoted under the banner "Football Comes Home". In the past few weeks police in Britain and on the Continent have watched the end of the football season with anxiety. There has been crowd disorder not only in England but also in Rotterdam and Paris.

Privately, British officers admit there is likely to be some disorder during Euro 96, but they hope it can be contained. Intelligence officers point to potential risks from Germany, Holland, Turkey and possibly Italy. Dutch and German fans have a reputation for aggression and are fierce rivals.

Turkish supporters clashed with British fans during a club match in Turkey last season. Police say their behaviour can be unpredictable and they could find the restrictions at

British grounds difficult to tolerate. They are used to a much more liberal approach, including the use of fireworks. The Italians are playing in the North West, which could cause friction because some supporters may seek revenge for the death of 39 Juventus supporters at the Heysel stadium in 1985, when Liverpool fans mounted a charge.

The biggest threat comes from violent groups of German supporters who have



SOCCER VIOLENCE PART 1

already contacted groups of English fans challenging them to do battle. Chief Superintendent Michael Endler, who heads Germany's football intelligence unit, confirmed: "The English hooligans are always considered number one in Europe and so it is obligatory for our German hooligans to go to England to come back with photos and newspapers of their clashes with English fans to help their reputation on the local scene. If there are no opponents, if the police are not around or

another hooligan group, then they will turn on coloured people, for instance."

Their fiercest opponents are likely to be Combat 18, the ultra-right-wing English group. Sam Johnstone, of Liverpool University's Football Research Unit, said yesterday: "Euro 96 does present a perfect opportunity for Combat 18 to recruit and get publicity. Its attitude is, 'We are English and proud of it and we will fight for our country'. They are also very well organised and, like many hooligan gangs, use mobile phones to contact each other."

Mr Johnstone, who has made a special study of violence in football, pointed out that Combat 18 was particularly active in February last year when it distributed anti-English literature in Dublin before England's match against the Republic of Ireland.

English fans chanting "No surrender to the IRA" hurled seats on to the Irish fans, causing an international to be abandoned for the first time in English football history. It was also the worst incident involving any English national or club team at a stadium since Heysel.

Combat 18 has close ties with the National Front. It has encouraged and promoted some of the violence involving English supporters in recent years. This includes the World Cup match against Holland in October 1993 when 1,100 Englishmen were deported. The highest number ever for a match involving the national team. The neo-fascists have



England's game with the Republic of Ireland last year was abandoned when English fans threw seats and shouted "no surrender to the IRA"

been particularly prominent among the London gangs such as West Ham's InterCity Firm, the Chelsea Headhunters and the Millwall Bushwackers. They have also been distributing leaflets in Manchester and South Yorkshire.

Scots who fail to get one of the 8,150 seats for the game against England at Wembley on June 15 are expected to travel south in the hope of getting in. Andy Blange, a member of the Hibernian Casuals gang from Edinburgh, has said that he and others will try to buy tickets from touts and this will upset the segregation of supporters.

The annual England-Scotland match was abandoned in 1989 after a series of violent outbursts.

All England's preliminary games have been sold out, but Mr Johnstone said: "People will still go down to Wembley hoping to buy tickets on the black market. They will play a cat-and-mouse game with the police."

"I still think the policing is more than adequate to deal with trouble, but Euro 96 remains an opportunity for less salubrious types to cause disturbance."

Leading article, page 17
England tour, pages 24, 25

GANGS BEHIND THE VIOLENCE

The notorious English hooligan gangs of the early 1980s still exist, but are much smaller. Sam Johnstone, of the Liverpool University Football Research Unit, said: "There are fewer of these groups since Hillsborough — the enormity of that disaster changed many people's attitudes."

But Adrian Appleby, the policeman who headed the National Football Intelligence Unit when it was set up six years ago, said: "Many of the gangs have been very well organised, with 'generals' directing the troops. The juniors do the fighting while the seniors carry out the planning and organisation."

Here is a breakdown of four leading gangs: The InterCity Firm: from West Ham. Got its nickname because members used InterCity trains to travel to games. Members of the gang have left calling cards on the bodies of victims.

These read: "Congratulations, you have just met the ICF." This happened to an Arsenal fan who was stabbed to death in May 1992. The Chelsea Headhunters: The club's following achieved notoriety particularly since March 1985, when Chelsea's visit to Bruges was marred by outbursts of trouble in the Belgian city.

The Millwall Bushwackers: Few groups of fans have had such a long record of disorder, although the club itself has tried manfully to shake off its unsavoury image. The Millwall chant is celebrated: "Everybody hates us. We don't care. We are Millwall."

Manchester United's Red Army: The club is the best supported team in the country. But its recent series of successes seems to have taken much of the impetus away from its fans violence.

Three years of planning and £25m to nip trouble in the bud

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE battle against hooliganism at Euro 96, estimated to cost £25 million, will be the largest national police operation since the miners' strike of 1984-85.

At least 10,000 officers from ten forces will be involved in policing the competition, using national and international computer links to monitor fans and hooligans. The Crown Prosecution Service, magistrates and the Prison Service have also developed contingency plans to deal with large-scale arrests.

Three years of planning have been needed to prepare for the three-week tournament, when police forces across the country will be co-ordinated at New Scotland Yard. Eight other centres will be operating in the host cities to co-

ordinate policing. On June 1, a week before the championship begins, the London centre will begin the massive task of monitoring thousands of foreign and English supporters and supplying information to regional forces, ports and airports.

Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George, head of policing for Euro 96, said: "It is a massive operation but it is not intrusive. Our main strategy will be quite intellectual and we have to target the hooligan element, not just here but across continental Europe."

Each force covering cities where matches are being played has developed a four-phase plan. Small-scale trouble will be met by units of local officers trained in basic riot control. If the problems get worse tactical support units with more equipment will be deployed. If these do not hold

the line, officers will be brought in from other parts of the force and as a last resort a force would call for reinforcements from surrounding forces.

At the centre in New Scotland Yard, the seven operational members of the football unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), which was set up after the trouble at the 1988 European championship, will be joined by 18 policemen who specialise in countering football violence. In addition, 15 foreign liaison officers, one from each of the visiting countries, will interpret the information on the movements of continental supporters.

Their first task will be stop potential troublemakers from entering Britain. Immigration officers will be able to deny entry to anyone whose presence in Britain "is not

conducive to public good". It is inevitable that some foreign troublemakers will escape detection at ports of entry. However, several countries, including Holland and Germany, are also sending plainclothes policemen who will help the British forces to identify known hooligans.

Germany, Holland and Scotland — among the countries whose fans could spark the worst disorder — are each sending four spotters. Other countries will be sending two. As Detective Chief Inspector Bryan Drew of NCIS said: "Even if you have a list of troublemakers, this is not of value unless you recognise them." Ten plainclothes, which can produce a much better-quality colour picture than a fax, will be used by the eight forces patrolling the grounds where matches are being played plus New Scotland Yard and the British

Transport Police. NCIS has details of 5,000 convicted and suspected English hooligans in its files.

The biggest problem for Commander John Purnell, who is heading the £5 million operation for the capital, will come on June 15, with Trooping the Colour in the morning and the England-Scotland game at Wembley in the afternoon. The police also have to provide cover for an air show at Biggin Hill on the other side of London.

Mr George, who chairs the public order subcommittee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "I am confident we have got the strategy, manpower and intelligence to ensure this is remembered as a football event, not a hooligan event."

□ Tomorrow: Germany's troubled terraces

George believes police operation not intrusive



Drew: helping to spot potential hooligans



Tourists deterred by fear

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

FOREIGN tourists are being deterred from coming to Britain because of potential trouble from football fans during Euro 96. Hoteliers and tour operators are so concerned that they are questioning the policy of Britain staging big international sporting events.

Richard Tobias, chief executive of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association, said: "Hoteliers had hoped that Euro 96 would provide a

bonanza, but the truth is that many fans are coming to England on charter planes and will be returning home as soon as their match ends."

"After Euro 96, we will examine the position very carefully to see whether these events really benefit Britain. There is a wide body of thought that many of our traditional high-spending visitors have been put off."

In the first quarter of the year, the number of visitors to Britain rose by 6 per cent compared with the same per-

iod in 1995 — a total of 452 million overseas arrivals. Hotels reported a similar increase in bookings.

But bookings have now tailed off and the next quarter is expected to be well down, partly because of Euro 96 and partly because of the BSE scare which is especially deterring French school parties.

BITOA, which represents 300 incoming tourism organisations in Britain, expects to generate £12 billion to the Exchequer from 24 million overseas visitors this year.

Ministers delay plans for longer pub opening times

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to allow pubs to stay open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays have been postponed because the Government fears strong opposition from neighbours and criticism from nightclub owners.

Ministers have decided against publishing plans to overhaul weekend licensing laws until they have seen the effect of allowing football fans to drink until late in pubs and 4am in clubs in cities staging matches during the Euro 96 championship. Any drink-related violence in those cities will be a blow to ministerial plans to allow an extra hour of drinking in England and Wales at weekends.

Under the Government's proposals, magistrates would have the power to grant or refuse the extra hours depending on opposition from local residents. One senior Whitehall source admitted that there could be an electoral backlash from Tory voters living near

pubs in rural areas. Although ministers generally favour the relaxation as a way of meeting changing social habits and of removing red tape from businesses, one source said: "There are a lot of serious disadvantages in it for them. It is all very well to allow the extra hour in the city centres but in small towns and rural areas it will add to the burden on the police."

Ministers have twice postponed publication of a consultation paper on relaxing licensing laws and it is now unlikely to appear until later in the summer. The Government is also under pressure from nightclubs and discos to match the extra pub hours with a similar extension to 3am in the regions and 4am in central London.

Club owners have told ministers that their business will be hit hard if the three-hour differential in closing times is not maintained. They have said that, if the gap is short-

ened, a "happy hour" price war will break out between nightclubs and pubs to attract late-night custom.

Tony Marshall, of the British Entertainment and Discotheque Association, said yesterday: "Our greatest fear is that, by allowing pubs to stay open until later on Friday and Saturdays, people will not even bother to go to discos."

"We will press the Home Office to extend licensing hours for discotheques in line with any extension they consider giving to public houses. They must retain the differential of three hours that has existed for 30 years."

The relaxation planned by the Home Office is the latest in a number of measures to increase pub opening times. Other changes being considered include allowing restaurants to serve alcohol without food. They would be allowed to become wine bars or French-style brasseries without changing their licences.

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Saudi prince restores a perfect English oasis

By Rachel Kelly and Emma Wilkins

A SAUDI prince's dream in the Oxfordshire countryside is nearing completion. After four years, during which he has spent an estimated £42 million, the finishing touches are being made to the renovation of Glympton House and 21 adjoining properties to create what is probably the most perfectly restored village in Britain.

Stonemasons, carpenters and landscape gardeners have been hard at work ever since Prince Bandar, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Washington, bought the 2,000-acre Glympton Park estate near Woodstock four years ago from Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, for about £11 million.

Most of Glympton's 80 residents are delighted at the restoration. But some are concerned that the prince may restrict public access to the 65 acres of parkland surrounding his mansion, and one couple will lose their home as a result of his wish to have all his cottages occupied by estate workers.

There is no mistaking the work that has gone into the rebirth of Glympton. The dry-stone wall encircling the estate has been repaired. The grounds have been completely re-landscaped by Francois Goffinet. All the cottages have been modernised, their roofs mended and bathrooms installed. Dilapidated farm buildings have been demolished and rebuilt, and the lodge house to the estate restored.

The main house itself has been transformed. It had no central heating or wiring



Glympton House, painstakingly renovated with added glory, and Pam Franklin, below, a casualty of the prince's desire to have an estate populated by workers

when the prince bought it, and damp had crept in. Now the facade of the 17th-century Grade II-listed property has been renovated and extended, and a new entrance porch built. The basement has been enlarged to include an underground rackets court, swimming pool, gym and leisure spa, and lifts now ascend to the new bedroom and bathroom suites.

The plasterwork in the stairways has been meticulously replaced and cleaned, and paint in colours appropriate to the period has been reproduced. There is considerable emphasis on sophisticated security systems.

The prince, aged 45, is an enthusiastic anglophile, although he is expected to spend only brief periods at Glympton. A Saudi business colleague said: "He was charmed by the special magic of the estate and its village,

and wished to restore it to perfection." John and Pam Franklin, however, represent an imperfection. As the last tenants in the village to have a commercial rental agreement with the estate, they have been asked to leave their two-bedroomed cottage. Mrs Franklin, who is five months' pregnant, has found a new home outside the village, but the couple cannot move in yet and face ten weeks staying with friends.

"It's very unfortunate that this has happened when I am pregnant; it is the worst time to move," Mrs Franklin, an artist, said. "I think the estate manager is mortified, but there is not a great deal we can do. The estate is quite within its rights to ask us to go, but we are desperately trying to get a little more time."

Some villagers are concerned by tight security around the perimeter of the

parkland, which is crossed by a public footpath. Dr Graham Swift, a parish councillor, said: "The footpath is a disadvantage for the prince, but he has gone to a lot of trouble to screen the view of his house by planting hundreds of trees. If he ever planned to change the footpath, I'm sure the local council and the Council for the Protection of Rural England would have something to say about it."

But most villagers have nothing but praise for the prince. Ivy Dixon, 70, whose late husband was the estate farm manager, now enjoys a new roof, restored stonework, damp course, double-glazing and a modern bathroom and kitchen in her two-bedroomed cottage. "Things have got to be brought up to modern standards and, without the new owner, Glympton would eventually have just fallen down," Mrs Dixon added. "There

are not many Englishmen these days who are rich enough to afford to do all this work, so we shouldn't complain. It is funny, though, to think that an English village has been restored by someone from Saudi Arabia, but I have to say that he has done nothing but good. We must be the best-restored village in Britain."

Equally happy with the work is the planning department of West Oxfordshire District Council, which said that the prince had discharged his responsibilities in relation to listed buildings, and had managed to balance the needs of conservation and restoration.

Reg Bamsey, at 82 Glympton's oldest male resident, welcomes his Saudi landlord. "I suppose, coming from all that sand, it's nice for him to have a bit of English greenery around him."



Prince Bandar: said to be enthusiastic anglophile



Volunteers rescue last words beyond the grave

By Peter Foster

THOUSANDS of inscriptions from crumbling gravestones are being recorded on computer disks before they are lost to vandals and the elements. Amateur gravespotters from genealogical societies, Women's Institutes and parish churches have been enlisted to gather the information.

A computer program developed at De Montfort University Bedford enables small pools of information to be merged to create an increasingly comprehensive database. Richard Smart, the university's head of history, said: "Memorial inscriptions are pieces of history disappearing before our eyes. They are a vital research resource."

The software has been taken up by nine family history societies since its launch last November, and the creation of a national database of inscriptions is now possible.

Headstones provide information not easily available from records such as parish registers and census returns. Michael Gandy, a leading genealogist and vice-chair of the Federation of Family History Societies, said: "A headstone can tell you about sons who died abroad in a war, babies who died in infancy unbaptised, and give rock-solid evidence of family relationships."

On weekends, small groups of up to 30 enthusiasts can be found recording inscriptions in their local churchyards. Geoff Sewell, of the Bedfordshire family history society, said: "We make a map of the yard, numbering each grave and then copy inscriptions on to card index files. We have five filing cabinets of this data which is being loaded on computer by our members."

For more information and a list of Family History Societies write to: The Administrator, The Federation of Family History Societies, The Benson Room, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS.

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School sport to be halted if teachers not insured

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S biggest teaching union is threatening to halt school sports matches immediately unless teachers are given "cast-iron guarantees" that they are fully insured when supervising games.

The National Union of Teachers is writing today to all its members' employers, demanding clarification over insurance arrangements after a referee was held liable last month for injuries that left a rugby player in a wheelchair. Teachers will be advised to withdraw from out-of-school sport immediately if the union is not satisfied with replies.

Ben Smoldon's successful action against the referee in a 1991 match for Sutton Coldfield Colts caused alarm in the world of amateur sport. Although the referee, Michael Nolan, was covered by the Rugby Football Union's insurance, lawyers have given warning that the precedent could encourage many more cases.

Teachers are covered by employers' liability insurance for sporting activities during the school day, but out-of-

school activities require extra cover. Education authorities and church schools agreed in 1973 to provide it, but the union fears that some grant-maintained schools and new local authorities may not be doing so.

Doug McAvooy, the NUT's general secretary, said that, without proper insurance, teachers could face financially ruinous awards against them. "School sport cannot thrive against a background of uncertainty."

The union is giving authorities and grant-maintained schools 48 hours to respond. Mr McAvooy, a former phys-

ical education teacher, said it would be foolhardy of any teacher to participate in out-of-school sport if the necessary guarantee was not provided.

Several schools have been sued by parents over sports injuries. Two years ago, Surrey Education Authority settled an action out of court after Richard Swan, who was injured in a mistimed rugby tackle, claimed that George Abbot School, in Guildford, had failed to instruct him properly in the game.

But Mr McAvooy said the Nolan case had highlighted teachers' vulnerability. "It is unacceptable that their com-

mitment to school sport and their pupils' physical development could leave them open to claims for damages."

The Government plans to allow schools to exclude children for up to 45 days at a time, instead of the present 15 days. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, confirmed yesterday.

Ministers hope that the move, to be implemented as soon as possible, will halt the rise in permanent expulsions, now more than 11,000 a year. Schools say that part of the reason for the increase is the removal of their power to exclude children for indefinite periods. Exclusion for just 15 days, they say, does not allow enough time to assess the cause of disruptive behaviour.

Mrs Shephard is also to look again at the operation of appeals panels. The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers has twice used the threat of strike action to frustrate parental wishes after appeals panels overturned decisions by a school's head and governors to exclude a child.

FEES TO RISE 6.5% UNDER LABOUR

Independent school fees would rise by an average of 6.5 per cent if a Labour government abolished the schools' charitable status, according to a survey published today. The impact would be felt most in small schools, some of which might have to close.

Labour is yet to determine its approach to independent schools. The Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) found that schools are providing £125 million to help families to pay fees. With other charitable activities accounting for a further £1.73 million, Isis estimates that the schools are giving away £1.99 for every £1 they gain from charitable status.



Father Breen, parish priest of Avoca. He said: "I thought they would send us up, but it is just a bit of fun."

Last laugh for TV village kissed by angel of fortune

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A SMALL village in the heart of the Garden of Ireland is reaping rewards for its role in the television series *Ballykissangel*. Initially there was concern about the effect on its image but now hundreds of English tourists a day are flocking to Avoca, Co Wick-

low, to pose for photographs outside the small parish church before heading for a pint at the even smaller pub. The hilltop village provides the rural setting for the whimsical BBC drama about an English priest posted to the fictional Ballykissangel, where his vows of celibacy are tested by a relationship with the local barmaid.

Avoca's increasing fame was reflected on last night's *Songs of Praise*, which came from the village church. St Mary and Patrick's — St Joseph's in the television series.

The rise in tourism and takings at the craft shop is a boost for the community, which has suffered chronic unemployment since the local copper mines closed 13 years ago with the loss of 1,000 jobs. Father Dan Breen, 66, the real parish priest, said: "Nearly

everyone is on social welfare, so it's good that they can make a few extra pounds."

Initially, Father Breen had mixed feelings about the programme, but he is now a fan. He said: "I thought they were going to send us up because the producers were attracted by Avoca's backward and seedy look. But the BBC told me the programme would be whimsical and harmless, and that has proved true."

His views are not shared by Irish critics. One said the programme "pandered to received romantic notions" about Ireland. But Father Breen — dressed in his own trademark black leather jacket and puffing away on a cigar — dismissed the critics: "They think the programme is paddywackery. They take themselves far too seriously when it is just a bit of fun."

As he spoke outside a mock-up of Ballykissangel post office, scores of English tourists made their way up the village's only street. Patricia Matthews, from Doncaster, said: "My daughter is so jealous I'm here. She wants pictures of everything in the village."



The TV cast: barmaid Dervla Kirwan, businessman Tony Doyle, and Stephen Tompkinson as the priest

Irish count cost of Eurovision success

By ALAN HAMILTON

ALL Ireland was in a state of shock, and parts of the country in abject despair, as the awful news sank home yesterday that it had won the Eurovision Song Contest for the fourth time in five years.

The pyrrhic victory means that under Eurovision rules RTE, the country's modest-sized state broadcaster, will yet again have to play host to next year's contest, at an estimated cost to its small annual budget of £2.5 million.

Success came easily in Oslo on Saturday night to Eimear Quinn, the 23-year-old music student who performed the winning entry, *The Voice*. Dublin's most sober daily newspaper, the *Irish Times*, had a premonition of disaster on Saturday, carrying the headline: "Ominous signs of an Irish song contest win."

Yesterday's post-match dissection was led by the *Sunday Independent*, which claimed that the Irish victory was no accident. "They know they can rely on us, the patsies of Europe, to cough up the dough for another hooley next year," it said. "For years now the

scam has been well known throughout European TV stations. Put up a lousy song, you get a three-hour TV show costing millions, and you make sure the Irish patsies will take the whole thing seriously and end up paying for next year's gig." Money that would have gone to documentaries and features would now have to be spent staging next year's contest, it said.

Liam Miller, RTE's director of programmes, attempted to put a brave face on his difficulties yesterday, saying that it would take the company's board at least two weeks to decide what to do. Television officials claimed that another Irish win was good, but expensive, publicity for the tourist industry.

Ireland first entered the contest in 1965 and had its first win in 1970 with *All Kinds of Everything*, sung by Dana. Last year's contest was won by Norway, which previously had the reputation of consistently scoring *nul point*. What turned their fortunes round? They hired an Irish singer.

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H A N S O N

US funds study of Gulf War illness in British troops

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A MILLION-DOLLAR study to determine whether Gulf War syndrome has affected British soldiers is being undertaken in this country, at the Pentagon's expense. The three-year study, led by two specialists in unexplained syndromes at King's College Medical School, London, will be the first systematic examination of the health of soldiers who served in the Gulf.

Although the Pentagon has spent \$92 million (about £62 million) researching the syndrome in the United States, no epidemiological studies, designed to reveal the pattern of illness, have been done because America has no unified system of medical record-keeping. In this country, the National Health Service provides the body of data required for the research.

A total of 15,000 men and women will be surveyed, including 5,000 who served in the Gulf and 5,000 who served in other foreign countries such as Bosnia. The remainder will be controls. An advertisement for a co-ordinator to run the research appears in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

The Pentagon has put up the money as part of its commitment to Nato and because it wishes to study the impact of the syndrome on the forces of the coalition that drove the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

The Medical Research

Council is meanwhile to announce a £1.5 million grant from the Ministry of Defence to conduct further research into the syndrome. A spokesman said a call for research proposals would go out in the next two weeks. "We need to establish whether or not there is something tangible here."

More than 700 former British servicemen and women claim they are suffering from illnesses related to the 1991 Gulf War, when they were exposed to the threat of chemical or biological attack. Although it is now accepted that no such attack occurred, the soldiers believe their symptoms were caused by the drugs they were given to counter an attack.

These included immunisations against anthrax, botulism and bubonic plague and daily doses of nerve agent pre-treatment sets, called Naps. Naps contain a drug called pyridostigmine bromide, which is used for the treatment of the neurological condition myasthenia gravis.

The Pentagon-funded study, led by Dr Simon Wessley, an expert in chronic fatigue syndrome, and Dr Tony David, a neuropsychiatrist, will look at whether there is an excess of illness among those who served in the Gulf compared with those who served elsewhere or who stayed at home.

Dr Wessley said: "We know there are soldiers who are ill,

but findings of cancer or birth defects are meaningless until you have done a large-scale epidemiological study. We have to see whether there is an excess of illness in the Gulf war group, whether it follows any pattern — is there more cancer or asthma, or is there a new syndrome? — and whether it can be linked to anything."

It will be the definitive study which will establish the patterns of illness in Gulf War veterans. Others can then do more detailed research. The Gulf Veterans Association said that one in ten of the 51,000 British troops who went to the Gulf had reported illnesses. Larry Cammock, the association's treasurer, said: "These research studies show the whole thing is being looked at seriously for a change, instead of being denied. We hope they are completed as quickly as possible and show the true picture of what is going on instead of covering it up."



Richard and Sarah Davies preparing yesterday for their trip to the Falklands

GP sets sail for Falklands job

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

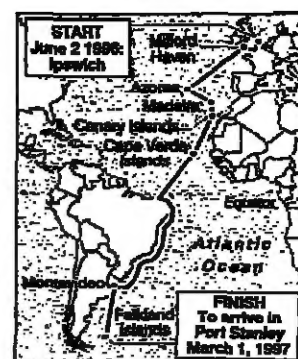
A DOCTOR is making final preparations to sail 8,000 miles in a 36ft yacht to the Falkland Islands where he will take up a post as a GP.

Richard Davies, 36, and his wife Sarah, 33, will set sail for Port Stanley on June 2. Dr Davies will join a team of three other GPs serving the islands' population of 2,000. Mrs Davies hopes to work as a nurse.

Dr Davies, who has worked in general practice in Ipswich for seven years, was looking to combine his love of sailing with his career. The classified columns of the *British Medical Journal* provided the perfect opportunity — GP Medical Officer to serve the Falklands plus visiting commercial fishermen.

He made previous attempts to find a job in Australia and New Zealand, but officials were concerned that he was planning to arrive on board his own yacht, *Cowrie*, after a ten-month voyage. Falkland Islands officials had no such reservations.

This week the couple are completing final preparations in Ipswich before sailing for



Milford Haven and then on to the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands, the Brazilian coast and down to Montevideo for Christmas. Mr Davies is due to start work on March 1.

They have begun loading *Cowrie* with food and spares. It will set off with about a quarter of a ton of pasta, 100 cans of tinned tomatoes and a large side of ham.

When they eventually reach their destination, the Falklands will offer some of the most challenging and unspoiled cruising in the world. "There are islands, fjords and channels to explore," Dr Davies said. "There's also interesting wildlife — loads of penguins."

You always meant to join us. How many deaths ago was that?



Burmese soldier in a pose familiar to democracy supporters.

mountainsides to fall to their deaths.

Amnesty International has produced report after report on Burma. We campaign for an end to forced portering and for the release of more than a thousand people who are in prison for daring to call for democracy.

To date the Burmese generals refuse to allow Amnesty International into the country. We need to pile the pressure onto them, and to do this we need the support of everyone who gives a damn. Do you?

Please don't turn away again.

This advertisement was going to open with the words: "We don't mean to make you feel guilty." But it's not true. We do.

Feeling guilty proves that you care. That you value justice and freedom and basic human rights. That you're not one of those who can watch people's agony on TV while wondering what's on the other channel.

You care. That makes you very special. We need you. Please act on your best instincts. Do something to help.

Joining us isn't the only way you can help, but it's one of the most effective.

For thirty five years we have campaigned tirelessly against human rights abuse all over the world. There are many examples of how the intervention of Amnesty International has helped free people from jail, save them from torture or from being killed.

What is Amnesty International but people just like you? People who on their own can do little, but by joining together can help thousands.

We need you because despite everything we're doing, it still isn't enough.

We know it's not enough because the killings, torture and imprisonment haven't stopped. Until they do, neither can we.

Please take this opportunity to join us or make a donation to help our work. Make today the day. Make this the moment. Pick up your pen and fill in the coupon. Or pick up the phone. Do it now. Do it for the sake of the suffering people in Burma whose acts of principle and courage deserve more than our complicit silence.

Most of all, do it for yourself.

Did you see John Pilger's shocking documentary about Burma, where thousands have been killed for daring to call for democracy, where the woman who won an election was held under house arrest for years, where children are forced to labour for the army and you can be clapped in manacles and chains for singing a song about freedom? Can you see such things and not want to help?



Amnesty International working worldwide for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair trials for political prisoners and an end to torture, extra-judicial executions, "disappearances" and the death penalty.

Earlier this week, millions of TV viewers saw John Pilger's terrifying film about Burma, which for 34 years has been ruled by generals who renamed the country Myanmar, closed it off to the outside world and imprisoned, tortured or killed anyone who disagreed with them.

With our own eyes we saw the evidence. We watched young Burmese students calling for a 'democracy' which most of us take for granted, being shot down, running away through the streets and falling, drenched in blood.

"Keep filming till they shoot us."

We saw these things because Burmese people risked their lives to film them secretly.

We heard the voices of cameramen who had been warned that they would be shot if they kept on filming. As the soldiers raise their guns one cameraman asks the other: "What shall we do?"

"Keep on filming till they shoot us."

We saw brave Aung San Suu Kyi, who won a democratic election with 82% of the seats, who was confined under arrest in her house by the generals who lost.

We saw how the generals imprison any who dare to express a desire for freedom —

Infections kill 17m each year

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A GLOBAL crisis of infectious disease is facing rich and poor nations, a World Health Organisation report warns today.

More than 17 million people die from infectious diseases each year, although many could be cured for as little as 50p per person. In the past 20 years, at least 30 new diseases have emerged, but initial optimism that they could be easily controlled "led to a fatal complacency", says the WHO's Director-General, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima. Matters are likely to worsen with air travel posing a growing threat of spreading diseases between continents within days or hours.

The World Health Report for 1996 records the main killers as pneumonia, 4.4 million deaths; cholera, typhoid and dysentery, 3.1 million; TB 3.1 million; malaria 2.1 million; hepatitis B, 1.1 million; HIV/AIDS and measles, 1 million; tetanus, whooping cough and intestinal worms, 1 million. Dr Lindsay Marti-

nez, an infectious disease specialist at WHO, notes new diseases such as hepatitis C, ebola, haemorrhagic fever and the strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease that has apparently emerged in Britain. She adds: "Aids turned into a global pandemic in just a few years."

Some diseases have developed serious drug resistance, such as gonorrhoea, pneumonia, and TB. Real success against others is possible: polio and leprosy could be eliminated as a public health problem within a few years.

The report calls for improvements in international surveillance on new outbreaks, prevention strategies and public health practices. Professor Donald Henderson, who spearheaded the WHO's successful eradication of smallpox, said in a lecture at the Royal Society that mankind's survival may depend on more money being spent on vaccine research.

Mind and Matter, page 14

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Healthy roots of Australian wine

A DOCTOR who abandoned thoughts of a career as a surgeon to combine general practice with running a wine estate in Hunter Valley, Australia, will be among the exhibitors at the wine fair at Olympia in London this week.

Dr Philip Norrie is following in some well-trodden footsteps. Australian doctors have had a respect for the medicinal properties of wine since the days of transportation. Convict ships were supplied with wine and one of the jobs of the ship's doctor was to make certain that it was issued.

It was noticed early on that those convicts who drank wine were more likely to survive and were in better physical shape when they reached Australia than those who did not.

Many of the ship's doctors stayed and planted vines for the benefit of themselves and their patients. Some 160 of the largest vineyards in Australia were founded by doctors and 90 are still in their hands. Three of the four largest wine companies in Australia were started by doctors and 60 per cent of the total Australian grape crush is processed by companies begun by members of the medical profession.

A recent Australian long-term study into the health of the elderly looked at the factors that contributed to

survival and wellbeing in nearly 3,000 people in Dubbo, New South Wales. The research workers came to conclusions that confirmed the opinions of the convict ships' doctors nearly 200 years ago.

The study shows that the link between a reasonable alcohol intake and good health continues, and is particularly important in older people in whom cardiovascular disease is a frequent cause of ill-health. The old men of Dubbo who consumed more than three standard units of alcohol a day had a 63 per cent lower mortality rate during a 13-month period than those who abstained.

The Government's present recommendation is that men should not drink more than 28 units a week, but Dr Norrie reports that another large Australian project has shown benefit in up to 40 units a week. Unfortunately, although the Dubbo research suggested that older women, too, would benefit from moderate alcohol consumption, only 15 per cent drank more than one unit a day, so that no firm conclusions could be drawn from the available statistics.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

China cracks down on Tibetan monks defying new ban

By JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINA is being openly defied by monks at Tibet's main monasteries who have been infuriated by a ban on pictures of the Dalai Lama.

Unrest has spread from the mountain-top monastery at Ganden, one of the world's most important Buddhist sites, to the principal monasteries in Lhasa, the capital. At Ganden, Chinese repression was so severe that two lories were reportedly used to take monks and nuns to hospital.

A tourist who saw them said: "Some people were walking, some people could not walk. They were holding each other and some were crying or screaming ... Their whole faces were sore and covered with blood. On the other truck I saw some legs hanging out the back."

Peking's order for pictures of the Dalai Lama to be removed from Tibetan schools follows an earlier one for images of the man Tibetans

regard as their spiritual and temporal leader to be taken from temples.

Tourists in Lhasa reported that last week the Jokhang, Tibet's main temple, and the Sera, Drepung and Ramoche monasteries, were closed.

The London-based Tibet Information Network, which keeps in touch with dissenters, said that up to 80 people, at least 30 of them women, had been injured in a clash with the authorities on May 14.

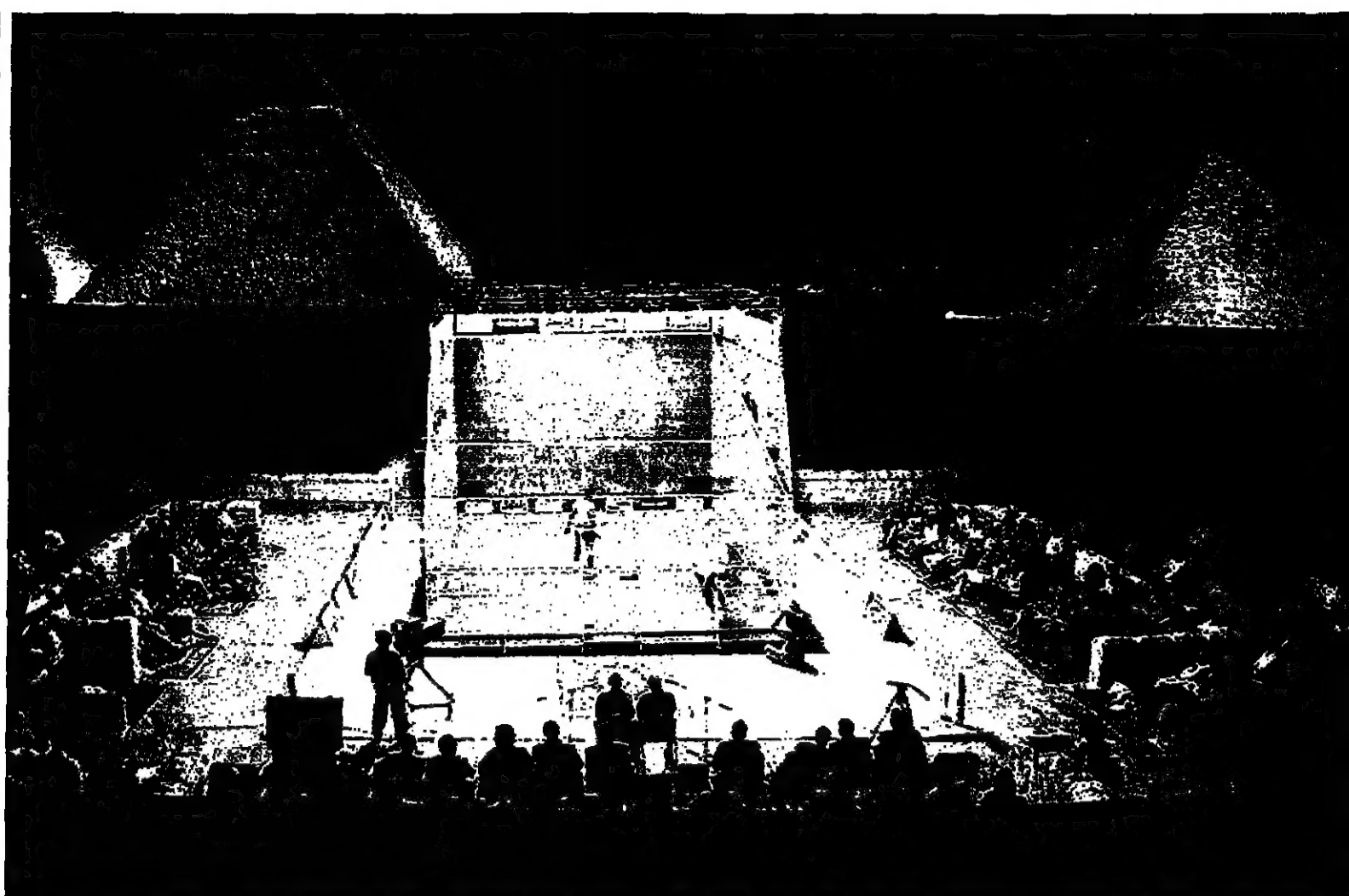
The abbot of Ganden is traditionally one of the tutors of the Dalai Lama. The monastery was completely destroyed by dynamite during the Cultural Revolution and as recently as 1990 the complex looked like a bombed city. Monks there recalled Chinese destruction and how sacred texts were burnt.

The picture crackdown results in part from Peking's fury with the Dalai Lama for disputing China's identifica-

tion of a six-year-old boy as the eleventh Panchen Lama, Tibet's highest monk after the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama had already approved the identification of a different boy by the abbot and other monks from the Panchen's seat at the Tashilumpo monastery in Shigatse. That boy, his family, the abbot and some of his team have disappeared. Peking claims they are safe but refuses to produce them.

The repression in Tibet is part of a general tightening up on all dissent in China and its minority regions. Chinese newspapers contain increasingly stark reports about repression of "splittists" in Xinjiang, in the far West, home to 18 million Muslims.

The Tibet Daily reported in a front-page editorial yesterday that police had been ordered to stamp out a campaign of "terrorist" bombings by groups supporting the Dalai Lama.



The floodlit, plastic-enclosed squash court erected at the foot of the Great Pyramid at Giza, where 56 top professionals from 15 countries are playing in a tournament sponsored by al-Ahram, Egypt's main newspaper, the first such event organised at the site. Report, page 22

Weekly drops story on Triads after 'hit' on publisher

By JONATHAN MIRSKY

AN ARTICLE naming Triad members, to have been printed in a new Hong Kong magazine, was withdrawn after its publisher had his arm hacked off by two attackers.

Leung Tin-wai was in critical condition as surgeons waited to see if they had succeeded in saving his left forearm, re-attached after the brutal attack in his office last Wednesday. It occurred on the eve of the launch of his new magazine, *Surprise Weekly*, and many here suspect that it was its contents that provoked a criminal syndicate to order a "hit".

The magazine was to have carried an article naming members of Triads, Hong Kong's criminal gangs, involved in prisons in nearby Macau. The attempt to name them violated a publishing taboo, for the Triads are widely feared. While the article was eventually withdrawn, it appeared in a dummy issue.

Yesterday hundreds of Hong Kong journalists demonstrated outside police headquarters and the courts and called for the arrest of the men who carried out the attack.

Eddie Hui, the Police Commissioner, issued a unique personal statement of concern about the victim. Mr Hui is

said to have also noted that he regarded the bold attack on the publisher as a deliberate challenge to the police.

Kevin Lau, vice-president of the Hong Kong Journalists' Association, said the attack was a warning to journalists.

"If two men can go into a newspaper office in the daytime and attack someone like this, that's a lesson, isn't it? They're saying: 'We could have done this to him in his car or at home, but that would be easy'. So they're making the point that you better be careful what you write."

Jimmy Lai, the publisher of *Apple Daily*, one of Hong Kong's most successful tabloids, whose offices and house were firebombed last year, said: "This was a professional attempted execution. We have to be careful what we say about people."

Francis Moriarty, of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, said: "It's frightening when we have this kind of direct assault on a respected member of our club." He added: "We can't have escalating violence against journalists here, especially when they are nervous enough about what's going to happen to the press after 1997 [when China takes over sovereignty]."

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HOW TO ENTER

Collect 10 differently numbered tokens from the 12 which will be printed in *The Times* until Saturday May 25. Token seven appears below. A bonus token also appeared in Saturday's Euro ITF supplement. Attach the tokens to the official entry form which was printed with a competition question and address last Saturday. Another entry form will appear this Saturday. The closing date for receipt of entries is first post Wednesday May 29.

The winners will be the first six names selected at random from all correct entries received with 10 tokens attached. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply. Up to four previously published tokens can be obtained by sending a SAE to arrive before May 22 to: *The Times* Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN.

For credit or debit card purchases of tickets for individual games in the tournament call the FA ticket hotline number 099 099 1996.

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British 'mad cow' strategists cannot play de Gaulle's Brussels gambit

The Cabinet ministers led by Michael Howard who hope to make an election issue of the EU beef ban are deluding themselves about how the EU works and public feeling. But so many false hopes and threats have been aired that the Government's fortunes now hang on a tussle between 15 vets over beef gelatin, tallow and semen.

If the ban on these is lifted by the EU today, John Major's spin doctors will be shouting triumph. If the ban stays, Euro-sceptics will be demanding "retaliation".



Neither outcome will do much for beef. The BSE crisis marks the moment when the competition among the senior Tories to succeed Mr

Major took precedence over the country's national interest in hargaining our way out of trouble. Every lobby with an axe to grind on beef accepts that Britain cannot force, and must negotiate, an end to a ban which extends far beyond the EU.

But a few Tory ministers and MPs want to get tough. They are not discouraged by the complete absence of evidence that other EU states have conspired with malice aforethought to do down the British beef industry. The Foreign Secretary has told the Cabinet that a British

boycott of meetings in Brussels will not work. There is no smoking gun and no empty chair. I hope that Malcolm Rifkind told his colleagues about Charles de Gaulle and the empty chair the last time anyone tried a Brussels boycott.

The general studied the diplomatic game with passion and concentration and his sense of timing was well honed. Back in 1965, when the EEC had just six members, he was fed up with federalists and particularly cross with Walter Hallstein,

an ambitious German President of the European Commission who had the same sort of effect on de Gaulle as Jacques Delors later used to have on Margaret Thatcher.

The Commission wanted a large extension of majority voting and Commission power, but de Gaulle wasn't buying it. Without warning, a French minister suspended a deadlocked all-night negotiation amid a "glacial silence". France's ambassador to Brussels was recalled to Paris. No Frenchman showed up at any EEC meeting for more than six months. The Luxembourg

Compromise, which ended the *chaise vide* crisis, gave individual states a veto power which did not begin to be eroded for another 20 years.

De Gaulle had gained his moves out on the chess board before hand. He was in a position to stop something which had not yet happened and which could not go ahead without France. This does not apply to Britain and beef. The ban already exists. So Britain is asking its partners to act and lift its boycotting beef discussions cannot make sense.

Dropping out of the EU working party fixing the trade rules for avocados or Arctic clothing will not stop the directives being passed.

Some ministers hinted that Britain's EU Ambassador, Stephen Wall, should be withdrawn from the weekly conference which is beginning to revise the Maastricht treaty. Since London allows Mr Wall very little room to negotiate anything at all, this move might be popular among other governments.

If a boycott would make the Government look weak and silly, using the EU as an

electoral scapegoat looks like lunacy. People may not be fond of the EU, but they understand the consumer panic which lies behind the ban. I can't recall a minister reminding voters that the EU have been severely restricted since 1990 because of BSE. America has banned British beef since 1989. Last week I heard one Whitehall official speculate that the overall ban might not be lifted for five or ten years. De Gaulle would have done it differently.

GEORGE BROCK

Gibraltar leader vows to tackle drug smugglers

GIBRALTAR's new Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, has promised to reform the Rock's image as the "smugglers' cove" portrayed by the Spanish media.

In his first interview since taking office, he told *The Times* that he was committed to repairing the damage he said had been done by Joe Bossano, his predecessor, who ruled Gibraltar for eight years up to his election defeat last week.

Mr Caruana said: "Inspired in large measure by the Spanish propaganda machine, the world now thinks of Gibraltar as nothing more than a smugglers' cove where nefarious activity is rampant."

He said he was committed to ending the smuggling by fast launch from Gibraltar to Spain of tobacco and drugs, which flourished unchecked for most of Mr Bossano's time in office. The new Chief Minister believes that it was this issue more than any other that led to Mr Bossano's defeat. Firm action against Gibraltar's smugglers, he says, would "repair the fabric of our own society", as well as furnish the Spanish Government with proof of his intention to "take Gibraltar out of the cul de sac into which Mr Bossano had thrust it".

Mr Caruana was elected on Friday in the most bitter elections in the colony's history. The turnout was a record 88 per cent as voters delivered Gibraltar to a man who has promised to be more conciliatory towards Spain.

His Gibraltar Social Democrats won 52 per cent of the



The Rock must be reconciled with Madrid while maintaining its sovereignty, the new Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, tells Tunku Varadarajan

vote, more than twice their support in the 1992 election. But there is a tragic background to Mr Caruana's celebrations. His oldest son, Michael, died four years ago in a horse-riding accident in southern Spain, aged nine.

The deeply religious Mr Caruana recounts a conversation he had with Michael the day before the boy's death. "I asked him whether he minded daddy being in politics, with the long hours and pressures and problems. And he just put his arm around me and hugged me, and said that he wanted me to be Chief Minister of Gibraltar soon."

Mr Caruana's willingness to spell out during the campaign his desire for better relations with Madrid led to his being labelled a *palomo*, or traitor, by Mr Bossano's supporters. But visibly more relaxed after the elections, the new Chief Minister denies that he is "soft on Spain".

"We are strong believers in the fact that only through dialogue can there be any prospect of finding ways of mutual co-operation between Spain and Gibraltar," Mr Caruana said. "My Government will do anything, without prejudicing British sovereignty, to try to persuade Spanish politicians to take a different view of Gibraltar."

Referring to an incident during the campaign when Mr Bossano described José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, as a fascist, Mr Caruana said: "It will certainly not be my style to be provocative, because I want to make it easier, not more difficult, for Spain to have better relations with us."

But better relations, he insisted, "cannot be achieved by negotiations between Madrid and London alone". He added: "We reject the traditional Spanish position that we are



Caruana: committed to better ties with Spain

not valid interlocutors in our own future. Of course we are. We are not just pawns. This is not an empty rock. Spain has to find a way of making room for us in their negotiations with the Foreign Office."

Unlike the Bossano administration, however, Mr Caruana does not insist that Madrid renounce its claim to Gibraltar before sitting down for talks with Spain. "Our position is simple. We are not willing to negotiate sovereignty, but we are willing to put the question of sovereignty to one side. Spain must do so, too. And I do not insist on there being a Gibraltar 'delegation' at talks, if that will make things difficult. I just want a structure which recognises Gibraltar's own voice."

Mr Bossano's aim was the swift "decolonisation" of Gibraltar. Mr Caruana's main concern is to "modernise" the colony. "We do not want to create a politically unstable environment for our economy. There can be no headlong rush into decolonisation, since that would damage the confidence of international investors in Gibraltar."

Mr Caruana added: "Of course, better relations with Spain would help us to prosper, but I wish to make it clear that we will not strive for that prosperity at the cost of sovereignty."

"The people of Gibraltar are a very long way from being willing to exchange their British birthright for economic expediency. We look to Britain and the EU to ensure that we will never be subjected to that oppressive choice."



Protecting herself from the sun, a nun sings during a Mass celebrated by the Pope at Maribor airport, Slovenia, yesterday. The service, at the end of the pontiff's three-day first visit to the country, was attended by about 120,000 people. As at

Thousands greet Pope

the Pope's first open-air Mass at the racecourse in Ljubljana, the capital, on Saturday, his seventy-sixth

birthday, the crowd was swelled by worshippers from the neighbouring countries of Croatia, Austria, Italy and Hungary. In his address, the Pope, warned his listeners against the occult, astrology, magic and superstition. (AFP)

New wave of terror engulfs Corsica

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

ANOTHER chapter of violence has opened in Corsica as police on France's "impossible island" again find themselves the target of terrorist attacks by nationalists.

Since last Monday, when the "historic" branch of the outlawed National Corsican Liberation Front issued an ultimatum to the French Government and ordered its members to "make an armed response to any attempt at arrest", there have been 13 bomb and machinegun attacks on police, magistrates and customs officials. There have been no serious casualties so far.

Early yesterday the police barracks in Ventiseri-Pont du Travo became the latest target, when the nationalists sprayed it with machinegun fire.

Last Tuesday there were four attacks in less than an hour on police and customs officials in Bastia and Ajaccio, and gunfire rang out in front of the island's main police barracks in Bastia.

While no group has claimed responsibility, the raids are believed to have been ordered by François Santoni, the leader of the "historic" branch of the movement, in an effort to prevent the arrest of one of his closest aides for murder. The suspect was due to be arrested last Monday as part of an island-wide clean-up operation ordered by the local examining magistrate, Marie-Pierre Sainte. More than 70 police took part, arresting 12 people suspected of drugs and arms smuggling and the rape of a minor, but M Santoni's friend was not apprehended. Two leading nationalists, Jean-Dominique Allegrini and Jose Savelli, were arrested on suspicion of arms trafficking.

A few hours later the movement issued its ultimatum, giving Paris "fifteen days to publicly show its commitment to the peace process and the political settlement of the Corsican question". Although both M Allegrini and M Savelli were freed, the terrorist attacks began that evening.

In January, the movement had called a three-month truce to signal its wish for negotiations. Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, has been conducting talks with various clandestine groups to bring about an end to more than 20 years of violence in Corsica.

Most Corsicans are also tiring of fratricidal warfare in the movement, and popular support for it has fallen from about 25 per cent in 1992 to 10 per cent at last year's municipal elections. But if Paris was hoping the issue might fade away, the events of last week showed that the rebels are not prepared to go quietly.

Chess-loving Karadzic outflanks West

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND STACY SULLIVAN IN BANJA LUKA

RADOVAN KARADZIC appeared to have consolidated his hold on power over the Bosnian Serbs yesterday, despite moving into the shadows and slipping further from the grasp of those who want him tried as a war criminal.

Biljana Plavsic, a hardliner, took over responsibility for negotiating with the international community, and Gorko Klicekovic, another extreme nationalist, was named as Prime Minister in place of a moderate favoured by the West.

Dr Plavsic is expected to continue Dr Karadzic's nationalist policies, but pushing her to the fore may decrease the pressure building in the international community to arrest Dr Karadzic and transport him to The Hague to face war crimes charges.

The Bosnian Serb leader insists that Bosnians cannot live together after 3½ years of war and that Serbs need their own land. That is a key issue as thousands of refugees try to



Karadzic could still pull the strings

exercise the freedom of movement accorded by the Dayton peace deal and return home. Dr Karadzic's nominal departure would also serve the purposes of President Milosevic of Serbia. Some international officials argue that Mr Milosevic should help bring about the overthrow of Dr Karadzic, his former ally, or face new economic sanctions.

Carl Bildt, the senior civilian official in Bosnia, said yesterday that Dr Karadzic appeared to be withdrawing from "public life", although his view was not shared by other Western diplomats and officials of the Nato-led peace Implementation Force (Ifor). They said Dr Karadzic could still pull the strings and control Serb policy.

The main hardline leaders of the Bosnian Serbs were meeting yesterday after Mr Bildt demanded they make a

clear statement that Dr Karadzic had quit the leadership.

The dismissal of Mr Kasagic ended weeks of power struggle in the Bosnian Serb capital, Pale, which culminated with Mr Kasagic urging full implementation of the Dayton accords, which also call for Dr Karadzic's arrest and prosecution as a suspected war criminal. Mr Kasagic — described by one Western diplomat as a hothouse flower forced to bloom by the stormy politics of Pale — was so insecure in the end that he asked for Ifor's protection.

Dr Karadzic's ousting of Mr Kasagic and his subsequent appointment of a hardliner, unlikely to stray from the will of the President, has angered opposition parties in Banja Luka that have been at odds with Dr Karadzic's hardline regime. But the mood in the northern city is anything but set against him.

When asked earlier in the

week if he had any intentions of creating a rival party or challenging Mr Karadzic, Mr Kasagic replied that he was never very interested in politics and that he was not sure what his future plans were.

The international community, which urged Mr Kasagic's reinstatement and called his removal a "coup against the Dayton agreement", has now agreed to recognise the new Prime Minister.

Although there is a rift between hardliners in Pale and the more moderate leadership in Banja Luka, residents in the northern stronghold said they still support Dr Karadzic as their leader. □ Belgrade: The Bosnian Serb general, Djordje Djukic, freed by the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague last month because of ill health, died of cancer at the weekend. The tribunal said on his release the charges against him should remain in place. (Reuters)

'Iron Lady' of Bosnia made foe of Milosevic

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND DESSA TREVISAN

BILJANA PLAVSIC, appointed by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to take over his dealings with the international community, is a virulent hardliner known as the "Iron Lady of the Bosnian Serbs".

The unmarried biology professor, who sees herself as the epitome of *Velika Srpkinja* — Greater Serbian Woman — is uncompromising in her mission to promote the Bosnian Serb cause. Even Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader widely seen as having fomented the war, sees her as an extremist, and said that she needed psychiatric treatment.

He never forgave her for refusing to shake hands when he visited Pale in 1993 in a snub captured by television, or for her campaign against the Vance-Owen peace plan, which he had backed.

Dr Plavsic, who had maintained a large apartment in

the Serbian capital, Belgrade, was effectively banished from Serbia henceforth, while Mira Markovic, Mr Milosevic's wife, launched a series of vitriolic attacks against the professor.

A formidable, stylish, greying blonde in her late fifties, Dr Plavsic joined Dr Karadzic's Serb Democratic Party and was elected to the Bosnian collective presidency in November 1991. She frequently told Bosnia's Muslims before war broke out that "it is pleasant to live with Serbs, but difficult to wage war on them".

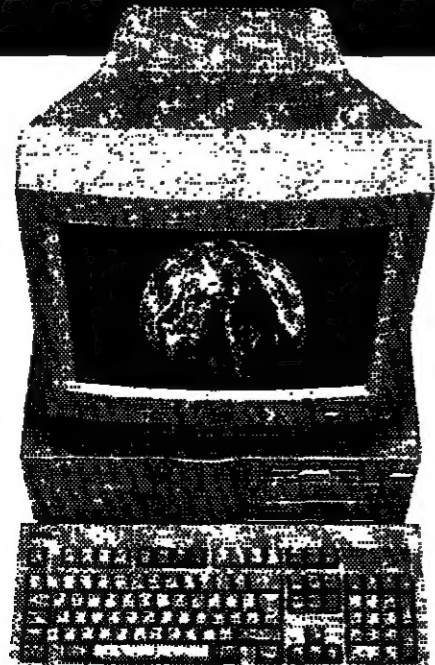
Dr Plavsic shares many similarities with Dr Karadzic: both speak English, taught at Sarajevo University and are regular churchgoers and dedicated anti-Communists.

After her appointment, Dr Plavsic said her priority was to implement the Dayton agreement.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE

Zoë Wanamaker plays a dog in the new A.R. Gurney comedy at the Apollo, Sylvia
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



DANCE

Belgian choreographer Wim Vandekeybus opens a festival of international dance at The Place
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSICAL

The Deadwood Stage rolls into London, as Calamity Jane comes to Sadler's Wells
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



POP

A late seeker after a solo career: Judith Durham serenades the Festival Hall
GIG: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

The curator hatches his egg

Richard Kendall tells Isabel Carlisle about the labour of love that brought Degas to the National Gallery

It is, says guest curator Richard Kendall, a "dream exhibition — the one I most wanted to do". In *Degas: Beyond Impressionism*, which opens at the National Gallery on Wednesday, he has been able to focus on the end of Degas' career, when he moved away from Impressionism towards an almost obsessive concentration on just a few themes — female nudes, bathers and ballet dancers.

It has been a five-year voyage of discovery for Kendall. "Quite early on it emerged that, for the public, this was an almost unknown area of Degas' art," he says. "One reason is that there is no singular major collection of his late work: instead it is scattered among private collectors and museums." In addition, many of those museums had the works in storage or on restricted display because of the danger of exposing the pastel works to high light levels. "A number of the works have not been exhibited at all since Degas' death," he adds.

When these late works emerged from Degas' studio after his death in 1917, to be sold in a famous series of auctions, they were considered odd, even unattractive. Certainly they were unlike the Degas that had exhibited with the Impressionists up until 1896. Major museums seeking to acquire a Degas for their collection mainly avoided these experimental works, but the National Gallery bought what is one of the major works of this show, *Combing the Hair*, an oil painting dominated by different tones of orange-red.

Women combing their own hair, or having it combed for them by a maid, is one of the themes to which a whole room of the Sainsbury wing exhibition space is devoted. When planning a show the curators normally draw up a series of loan requests based on key works that will encourage other lenders and give a structure to the exhibition. In the case of *Degas: Beyond Impressionism*, Kendall conceived the exhibition around groups of works. He and his fellow curators, John Leighton of the National Gallery and Douglas Druick of the Art Institute of Chicago (to which the show will travel), knew that unless they secured five or more loans for each group it would fall apart.

Because the contents of Degas' studio were photographed for the 1918 and 1919 auction catalogues, Kendall knew of the existence of a pastel closely related to *Combing the*

Hair. To have the pastel in the show would make an important point about how Degas worked "in series", altering a composition only slightly but changing the colours dramatically. It would also demonstrate Degas experimenting with the effect of medium on mood: while the pastel is dry and brittle, the oil is grand and expansive.

"But no one knew where the pastel was," Kendall says. "It had last been seen in public 40 years ago, when it was sold by a dealer in New York. I wrote to all my colleagues, and to dealers and galleries, but drew a blank. Then, six months ago, I mentioned the pastel to a curator in America who said: 'I know where it is; it's hanging in an apartment that I visit regularly and I'll ask the owner if you can borrow it'."

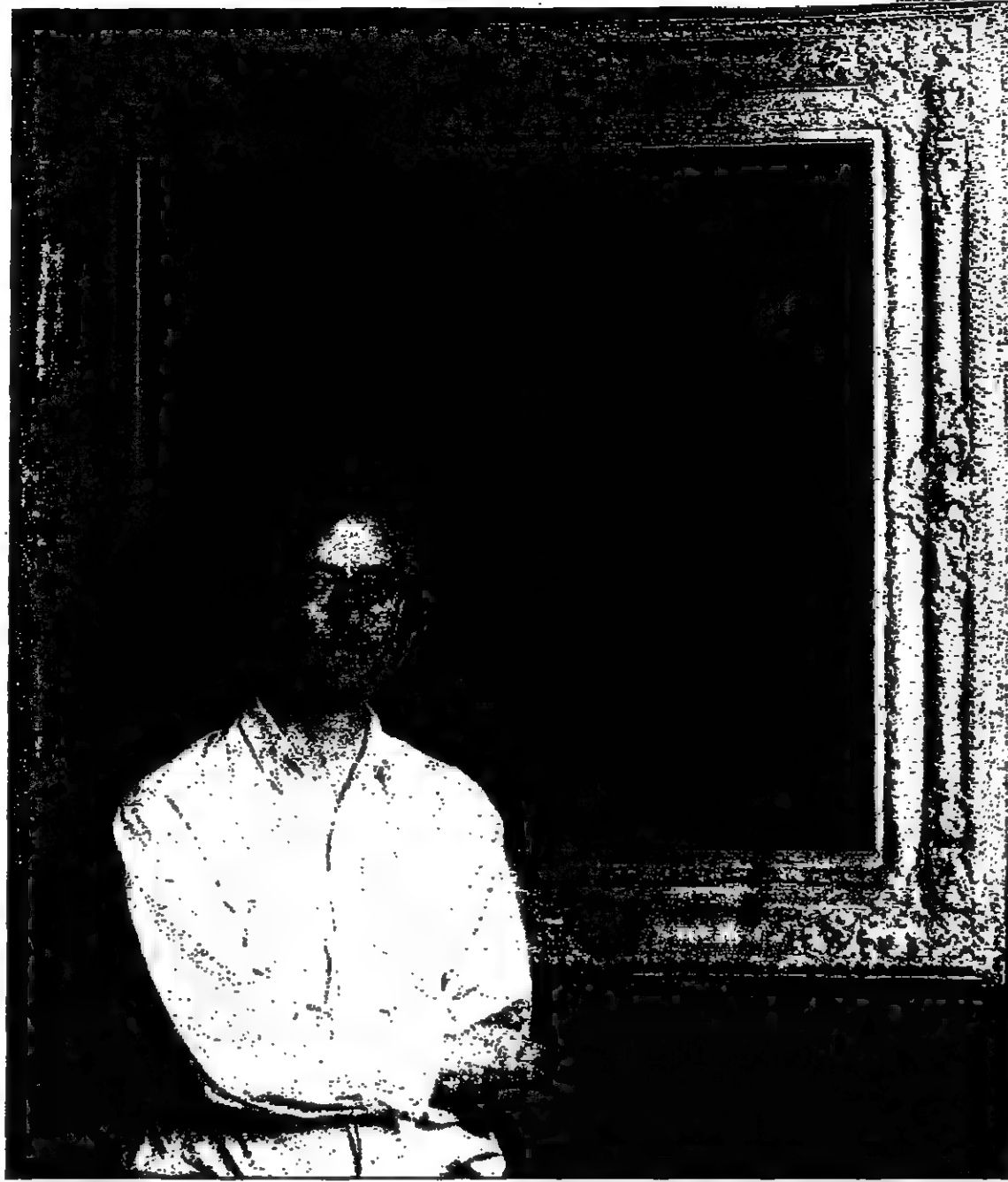
Now the two works are hanging side by side in the National Gallery for the first time since they were in Degas' studio.

Because pastels or charcoal, often on tracing paper (a method that Degas used to build up his se-

quences), formed such a large part of the "wanted" list, the problem of whether these were safe to travel, and how to transport them, had to be solved early on. Unless the surface of these powdery media has been "fixed" by the artist there is a danger that particles will be dislodged in travel. Where there was an element of doubt Kendall and Harriet Stratis in Chicago examined the works on paper to see if they were safe to include among the loans.

In addition, the National Gallery, working with the Art Institute of Chicago, devised a special "case within a case" for transporting panels that would minimise vibration. Two specially made pastel and charcoal drawings, one fixed, the other unfixed, went to Frankfurt and back while a device inside the special case measured the jolts and bumps. The Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, California, which has one of the best collections of Degas in the world but normally never lends, was so reassured by the results that it agreed to let their *After the Bath* go to both London and Chicago.

Kendall and Stratis discovered that where the pastels had been fixed they were as strong as oil paintings, if not stronger. They also found out more about Degas' technique — the fact that he built up his pastels in different layers of colour, fixing each layer as he went, an effect that makes the colours ring and glow in a way



Richard Kendall hopes *Degas: Beyond Impressionism* "will delight modernists as much as lovers of 19th-century art", and points to the similarities between the great Frenchman and, of all people, Picasso

Degas himself described as "orgies of colour".

Because the colours are so strong, and because these works were entirely created in the studio, Kendall was keen to recreate the deep chestnut colour of Degas' studio walls. The effect is extraordinary, as Kendall says: "It makes the works on paper jump out."

But the first room of the show, *The Years of Transition*, and one other room — in which Kendall proposes that Degas used his sculptures as models for his paintings — are painted blue-grey. "In the first room I wanted to let people orientate themselves with the familiar Degas, and then experience the contrast in the later rooms." The dark sculptures, modelled in wax but cast in bronze,

would have been lost against dark walls.

One of Kendall's aims has been to give a sense of Degas as a 20th-century artist. He hopes that the exhibition "will delight modernists as much as lovers of 19th-century art". Interestingly, it turns out that where there are late Degas works in private hands those collectors tend to be enthusiasts for 20th-century art. "Until 1912 Degas worked in Montmartre, a few yards from the Bateau-Lavoir where Cubism was developed in his lifetime," Kendall says. "Bonnard had a studio down the road and in 1902 Picasso had an exhibition five doors away from Degas."

"Degas' late work is that of a daring colourist making alarming technical sorties, and it belongs in

this context of early modernism. Although he is making timeless statements about the human body the objects themselves are radical, tough, demanding and unglamorous in the way that we associate with early Picasso."

Did Degas go into decline in his later years, or enter his most fertile phase? Were the experiments with radical new techniques from choice or from studio-bound necessity? Kendall does not presume to give us the answers — it is up to us to decide.

• *Degas: Beyond Impressionism*, sponsored by Ewan, SBC Warburg and The Times, is at the National Gallery from Wednesday until August 26. Tickets from first call on 0171-240 0000 (booking fee). The exhibition is reviewed tomorrow by Richard Cork

Play Bach, again

JAZZ

Jacques Loussier
Festival Hall

THE man in row 21 was tapping his knee with excitement, Buddy Rich-style, until he noticed his neighbour glancing at him. Sheepishly, he adopted the sober expression that people are supposed to wear in a concert hall.

Jacques Loussier's souped-up Bach often has that effect. It may be socially acceptable to smile knowingly whenever his Hamlet cigar theme comes on television, but everyone knows, deep down, that there is something vulgar about grafting jazz syncopations onto the *Italian Concerto*. Even if it sounds rather good.

Of course, Loussier does not try to compete with Glenn Gould. Nor does he describe himself as a true jazz improviser. What he has produced falls between the two camps, antagonising both sets of critics, and usually ends up being dismissed as lucrative muzak.

He makes his detractors' task easier by handing out the same lollipops at every concert — even he must be bored with *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*. Out later this year is a recording of that little-known work, *The Four Seasons*.

CLIVE DAVIS

Czechs and balances

CONCERT

Prague SO/
Belohlavek
Birmingham

PREPARING himself to play the Elgar concerto with the Prague Symphony Orchestra in Symphony Hall, Ralph Kirshbaum was clearly concerned that his cello might not be securely grounded in front of him. Sure enough, at the beginning of the last movement it twice slipped away from him, which meant that the performance twice had to be restarted and, worse, that he was visibly and audibly distracted.

It was particularly unfortunate because, apart from some imperfectly integrated detail in the *Allegro molto*, it had been an uncommonly accomplished and sensitive interpretation.

The orchestra seemed to be taken by surprise also at an early stage in the first movement, where the violas and then the cellos found themselves exposed and faltering. In Dvořák's *Wild Dove* there was no such uncertainty. Jiri Belohlavek secured a finely balanced and delicately coloured performance of one of Dvořák's most poetic scores.

If he was less successful in demonstrating the inspiration of another of the late sym-

phonic poems, *The Noonday Witch*, it was not so much because of the interpretation as of the composer's heavy reliance on the story on which the work is based: without a knowledge of Karel Erben's *Poednice* the audience was at a disadvantage.

Martini's *Fantaisies Symphoniques* is more a concerto for conductor and orchestra than a symphony. Without concerning themselves overmuch with the structure of the three movements — each of which comes to an end for no better reason than that it does not go on — Belohlavek and the PSO sustained Martini's characteristically taut textures while alighting most gracefully on his captivating but sparingly distributed melodic lines.

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Lust at the double

UNDER Jonathan Church's direction, the Playhouse has acquired a taste for twinning plays. Coupling *Educating Rita* and *Oleanna*, radically different takes on women students and their male profs, was rather inspired. Now Church is offering *The Rover*, the Restoration comedy by Aphra Behn, our first professional female dramatist. That is the one about swashbuckling British blokes abroad, dodging for carnival time in Naples, wenching with women who are out cruising too, equally lustily.

This play was famously revived by John Barton for the RSC in 1986. Barton's now standard version pruned many lines and grafted on others. Church's production returns to the original text and brings to light some amusing forgotten lines, about the idiot Blunt hailing from Essex and the like.

The Rover is joined by *The Banished Cavaliers* or *The Rover Part II*. Behn's sequel has not been seen for years. The double-bill is bold programming. Unfortunately, it isn't so exciting in execution.

Rover II, with Willmore's spunky sweetheart Hellena dead and the rogue two-fiming again in Madrid, coloured by a second whore, has a sprawling, scrappy plot. Niki Turner's traverse-stage design introduces simple elegance,

but it is gloomy and roomy. The revellers look lost and the fun is lacklustre.

Casting is the fundamental problem. Can Robert Bathurst's Willmore, grinning slightly inanely, really be taking the ladies by storm? It's a bit like Richard Briers playing Casanova. Zoe Aldrich is fine as the marriageable romantic heroine Florinda, beloved of Willmore's decent friend Belville, but Behn's harlots could little erotic heat. The dark heart of the play, with Florinda repeatedly nearly raped by Belville's best mates, could be more disturbing.

Still, the company rises occasionally to some amusing farce. The foppish twit Featherfoot of Croydon (Paul Black) has a terrifically silly pillow fight, ending up dangling from a balcony, roughly skinned against the wall by skimming late-night ravers, wailing — and no wonder — that he has lost his moveables.

KATE BASSETT

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

RICHARD STRAUSS'S
TILL EULENSPIEGEL
by David Nice

Richard Strauss first thought of enlisting Till Eulenspiegel, 14th-century mocker of hypocritical society, as the hero of a one-act opera. What emerged was a 15-minute tone poem, packing five of Till's exploits into musical form.

It is possible to treat the work as "pure music", but that is to miss enjoying the characterisations. No one toys more vividly with the drama and the danger than Wilhelm Furtwängler. One of his performances, recorded live in the 1930s and issued on Koch International (37073-2), begins with a disastrous account of the famous horn solo; it goes on to relish both the sprightly and the spiteful sides of our hero. Furtwängler's studio recording with the Vienna Philharmonic (EMI CDH 5 65197-2) seems relatively self-conscious compared with the Berlin Philharmonic in 1954 (Telarc FURT 1008/1).

Perhaps more charming is



another live recording from Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Philadelphia Orchestra (EMI CDC 5 55184-2). Its equal in caring for Till's nicer nature comes from Edo de Waart and the Minnesota Orchestra (Virgin Classics CUV 5 61266-2).

That brings us closer to interpretations in the mould of Strauss the conductor. His razor-sharp 1929 version has reappeared on Pearl (GEMM CD 9366). The perfect heir of recent years is another live recording with Claudio Abbado and a breathtaking Berlin Philharmonic (Sony SK 52565, £14.95). Taking the score at a crackling pace, Abbado's operatic story still leaves room for the solos to make their mark.

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In praise of plagues

Superbugs may be terrifying but, according to a new book, they play a vital part in shaping our world. Anjana Ahuja reports

EPIC catastrophe stories featuring ingenious but evil strains of bacteria and viruses making bids for world domination have filled the pages of the health and medical press over the past year.

Recent events have not alleviated concerns. The death of an Oxford don from malaria has turned the spotlight on the emergence of resistant strains of the disease. Barely a month goes by without news of an epidemic gripping a hospital, or a supposedly extinct disease making a comeback.

Now another book is about to join the fold, but its tone and perspective are radically different. *Plagues*, says Christopher Wills in his book of the same name, have been around as long as mankind, and they play a vital part in shaping our world.

He argues that the terrifying variety of bugs and germs is merely a reflection of the great diversity of life on this planet. As we multiply, so do the pathogens (any organisms causing disease) which feed on us. And he maintains it is unlikely that a rogue bug will get the better of us.

After the rash of almost hysterical books on the same subject, Professor Wills is aware he is adopting a lonely stance. "I offer an opposing view," he admits. "There are all sorts of things we should be alarmed about but the world is not going to end. Provided we keep our wits about us we should be all right. Look at smallpox — we wiped the disease out, which was an amazing achievement."

He is very keen not to be seen as playing down the seriousness of outbreaks, but insists the human race is not going to be turned into "piles of mush". What about the Ebola virus, which apparently did turn its unfortunate victims to mush?

"Ebola is actually very difficult to catch. The problem was that relatives were handling corpses, and coming into contact with bodily fluids. When they were prevented from doing that, the cycle of infection was broken," he says.

Coming from a biologist, this sounds like cold common sense. But why should we believe him? His credentials are sound — a PhD from the University of California at

Berkeley, a professorship in biology at its San Diego campus and membership of its Centre for Molecular Genetics. But another reason why his thesis is compelling is because it rests on one of the most revered scientific theories of our time — evolution.

Genetic diversity in human beings has evolved to protect us against marauding pathogens, which include viruses, bacteria, protozoa (single-cell organisms) and worms. This diversity means that some people are genetically better designed to fend off certain diseases than others. If vulnerable individuals are in a minority, they can "hide" from the pathogen among the more resistant majority.

Professor Wills calls this concept "genetic herd immunity". Each pathogen can attack only a few, genetically susceptible individuals, if it can ferret them out from the herd. These difficulties, he says, usually prevent any one disease from raging through a population. Safety lies in the diversity that evolution makes possible.

Such a theory is not easy to test, but Professor Wills came close by peering into the Panamanian rainforest, and its hundreds of tree species. A large diversity in species (and none dominant) within any given area meant pathogens were kept in check. But if a species became dominant, it shone like a beacon, attracting a pathogen capable of attacking it and so curbing its dominance.

He notes that evolving pathogens force a species to evolve to survive, and thus plagues are a natural factor in the development of complex ecosystems. He cites this delicate balance between pathogen and host as a powerful argument against environmental interference.

The same reasoning applies to the plagues and pestilence which affect human beings. "There was no need until recently to survive in dirty, crowded conditions such as refugee camps," he says, citing the appalling waves of cholera and dysentery which swept through refugee camps spawned by the civil war in Rwanda. These diseases took advantage of unusual conditions to spread.



A girl in Kikwit, Zaire, tries to protect herself from the Ebola virus, which spread as families handled their dead

The epidemics were swiftly controlled by simple sanitation measures. The fact that history is littered with such plagues proves to Professor Wills that we can deal with future disasters, although exploding populations, growing poverty and our invasion of remote corners of the globe — bringing us into contact with new pathogens — mean we may be in for a rough ride.

His book also highlights two reasons why we perceive the threat from disease as greater than ever before. The first is the prevalence of rapid communications and monitoring bodies such as the World Health Organisation. News travels fast these days.

The other, ironically, has arisen from our success at eradicating "easy" diseases — those which can be van-

quished by antibiotics or mass vaccination. For the most part, we no longer succumb to them. According to Professor Wills, this has made time for other, more intractable diseases, such as AIDS and tuberculosis, to emerge.

Even in this case, he sees light where others see darkness — educating people to change their sexual habits, he says, has had a perceptible effect on the spread of AIDS. This will give scientists time to develop an effective weapon against it.

Which brings us to another moot point. Can medicine keep up with clever pathogens? "We have no choice but to keep developing new drugs to cope with new pathogens, but we also must look at things

at a more fundamental level," Professor Wills says.

Malaria is one scourge against which biologists are hoping to pit their wits by using fundamental research, and the book documents with vigour the historical battle against the disease. Malaria, which kills two million people every year, is caused by a protozoan called plasmodium, which dines on red blood cells.

"It is about as complicated as the yeast genome, which was sequenced recently," says Professor Wills. "This means that we should soon be able to look in detail at its genes, to see which ones control infection and transfer."

Although he accepts the great human misery that plagues cause, his aura of optimism never seems to diminish. On the day I spoke to

him, the *International Herald Tribune* carried news of the worst ever outbreak of bacterial meningitis in West Africa. The estimated death toll over three months was 10,000.

He seemed agitated at the outbreak but, at the same time, pragmatic. "It is in the Third World, it has an exploding population, and deficiencies in nutrition, sanitation and water are widespread."

The remark is a chilling echo of his written prophecy on page 20: "Our species was not wiped out by its diseases in the past, and it will not be wiped out by them now. The world is not coming to an end... although... we are in for some very unpleasant and dangerous times."

Plagues: Their origin, history and future, by Christopher Wills, HarperCollins, £20

Richard Bentall on schizophrenia

The illness that defies diagnosis

One hundred years ago, the German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin first described a type of mental disorder which began in late adolescence, and which he believed led to an irreversible decline in mental capacities. He called it "dementia praecox"; we know it as schizophrenia. Symptoms include hallucinations and delusions, apathy and withdrawal.

As many as one in 200 people in Britain are believed to suffer from the illness. Throughout the West vast amounts of money and effort have been poured into schizophrenia research, yet it seems as baffling today as it did to Kraepelin.

Every factor known to influence human behaviour has, at one time or another, been singled out as a cause.

Before the war, schizophrenia was thought to run in families and have a genetic basis, but later research undermined this. In the 1950s the chance discovery that chlorpromazine, the antipsychotic drug, relieved the symptoms of some patients led to speculation that schizophrenia had a biochemical basis. Many believed that abnormalities in parts of the brain containing the neurotransmitter dopamine were responsible. No consistent support for this theory has been provided by subsequent studies.

Psychological theories were the vogue in the 1960s and parents were blamed for the mental agonies experienced by their schizophrenic children. Again, these ideas have not been supported by more recent research, although there is good evidence that a stressful family environment can prevent patients from recovering.

Most recently biological theories have implicated viruses which affect the foetal brain in subtle ways that become obvious only in adulthood. The prize for the most bizarre theory must go to the American psychiatrist who suggested that the schizophrenia virus might be caught from domestic cats. Apparently there is a higher incidence of schizophrenia in countries where cats are kept as pets.

The failure of this extensive research effort is very disappointing, but it is not surprising given that researchers

disagree even about the main features of the illness. Schizophrenia does not consist of a set of symptoms that are known to occur together. Kraepelin himself argued that intellectual deterioration is the main symptom of the disorder, but other researchers have emphasised autistic and withdrawn behaviour, and still others think hallucinations and delusions are the most characteristic symptoms.

Confusingly, all of the symptoms of schizophrenia also occur in other illnesses. No clear borderline has been found between schizophrenia and these other disorders, or indeed between schizophrenia and normal functioning — many people experience schizophrenia symptoms such as hearing voices, but do not seek psychiatric help.

When doctors diagnose physical illnesses they do so in order to predict what will

happen to the patient and what kinds of treatment will be useful. However, the diagnosis of schizophrenia has proved almost useless for these purposes.

About a third of schizophrenic patients get better, a third don't, and the remainder suffer episodes of illness.

Some patients respond to neuroleptic drugs such as chlorpromazine, others benefit from lithium carbonate (the drug normally used to treat mania), and some fail to respond to any medication. All the drugs may cause unpleasant side-effects. Unfortunately, because response to medication is unpredictable, psychiatrists sometimes increase the dose, producing severe side-effects without any benefits.

The time has surely come to abandon the diagnosis of schizophrenia altogether. It does not help clinicians to decide on treatment and it has misled researchers into lumping together people with very different symptoms. Research should focus on what patients actually complain of — hearing voices, feeling persecuted, difficulty in speaking. In the meantime, we should seek pragmatic ways to reduce the distress of patients and their families.

The author is Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool



□ A huge expanse of water has been found under the polar ice ... but Jupiter is puzzlingly dry

Long lost lake

SCIENTISTS working in the Antarctic are looking for ways to explore a huge lake they have found more than two miles down under the ice cap. Nearly 150 miles long by 30 miles wide, and perhaps as much as 2,000 feet deep, the water in the lake has remained undisturbed for at least half a million years, and maybe much longer.

The water — which may be fresh or salt, nobody is sure — and the sediments beneath it could provide species of bacteria, algae or fungi that exist nowhere else on Earth. But getting access to them without contaminating the lake is holding up exploration. Good ideas would be welcome.

Lakes beneath the Antarctic ice-cap were first identified by echo-sounding by a team from the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, with colleagues from America and

Denmark. More recently Russian scientists did seismic studies at their polar base, called Vostok, where they are drilling a hole through the ice. One ice core had reached a depth of more than 10,000 feet and was within a thousand feet or so of the lake when drilling stopped.

In a report to a meeting of the Antarctic Treaty nations in Utrecht earlier this month, the Russians said that "ran-



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

dom, unprepared penetration of such a lake can have catastrophic implications". The treaty nations have agreed that none of them will go ahead until a safe, clean method has been devised.

The weight of 10,000 feet of ice lying on the water surface means that the pressure is enormous, so any penetration could create a gusher that would hurt the drilling out of the hole. There is

also the "severe technical problem", says Dr David Walton of the British Antarctic Survey, of sampling the lake without contaminating it with drilling fluid.

He says that Lake Vostok is the largest sub-glacial lake so far discovered, but that there are many more, perhaps 70 in all. "Water and sediments that haven't been disturbed for half a million years are of great scientific interest," he says. "We want to ensure that we don't wreck the scientific value of it."

The mystery is how the water remains unfrozen under so much ice. One possibility is that heat from the Earth's core may be seeping upwards, or maybe the sheer weight of ice prevents the water beneath it freezing. "At the moment, it's all conjecture," says Dr Walton.

Not a drop to drink, by Jove



THE planet Jupiter has astronomers scratching their heads, now that data from the Galileo probe, which plunged through its atmosphere on December 7, have been analysed. There simply isn't enough water there to fit the theories of how Jupiter formed. The expected clouds and high humidity did not materialise, and careful checks have shown that this was not instrument error.

The shortage of water is puzzling because the atmosphere of Jupiter is full of methane and ammonia, believed to have been deposited there by bombardment of

debris from space, the leftovers from the formation of the solar system. But the corollary would be that if Jupiter formed this way, it would be rich in water as well — and it is not. It has only a fifth as much as expected.

Theorists are now scrambling to explain where the water went. One possibility is that the probe simply entered a particularly dry part of the Jovian atmosphere, and the rest is much wetter. Another is that the missing water is frozen in the planet's rocky core, or too deep in the atmosphere for the Galileo probe to detect.

Alternatively, Jupiter may have been formed in a different way, but in that case it is hard to explain the abundance of carbon. Far from solving the problems of Jupiter, the Galileo probe seems to have complicated them.



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The Princess of Wales faces a difficult battle, reports Joe Joseph



Queen of hearts — or princess of publicity? Diana on walkabout in Wales seduces the camera while at the same time irritating half the women of Britain with her manipulation

John Major, Douglas Hurd, the writer Paul Johnson — who even composes prayers for her plight — are just three of the Princess of Wales's many prominent male champions. Their open admiration underlines a popular perception that, in general, men support her cause and that women — older women? uglier women? just jealous women? — don't. But the completion of Diana's fan club may be changing.

A peer's wife swears that many men go weak for Diana: "One hears men say 'I'm in love with her'. I should think I could count up at least three who have said that. They obviously aren't, but they'd like to think they are."

But as more men tire of her — especially of her whining, her headline-hogging, her insistence on visiting her health club in Lycra shorts while still pleading for the cameras to go away (does she not own a track suit?), the way she pops up in odd places like *Panorama* interviews and operating theatres, her petulance over a sighting of cellulite on her thighs — Diana may be forced to win more women's sympathy if she is to stand any chance of rehabilitating her image.

To find that it is women who may now be pivotal in shaping her fate is a discovery that probably sits uneasily with Diana. She is a woman whose life has been measured out in men — like some famous painting or one of those fabled diamonds that get

Why Diana's future depends on women

passed from one rich pair of hands to another over the years.

There has been Diana and Charles, Diana and Gilbey, Diana and Hewitt, Diana and Hoare, Diana and Carling, among others. But now that she keeps saying she can do without men in her life, and even men who would once have risked treason for a tryst with Diana now content themselves with swooning from afar, she is slowly being sucked back into the folds of female society.

So how do they judge her? Diana is someone who is widely regarded as "a man's woman" — someone expert at softening the hardest male hearts, at winning sceptical media pundits over to her side, at seducing photographers with her *l'air de chose* for what makes a front-page photo. She seems to infect other people's marriages like a disease, a woman who is still making and breaking female friendships at a rate that suggests women aren't her natural soul-mates.

If she is now forced to look to other women for succour, then

she might be facing a future in which she will be relying on the kindness of strangers.

Why? Because it is pretty plain that she has not bothered too much so far about winning over women. Her flustering eyelashes are aimed at male interviewers; her cleavage she famously pointed at Henry Kissinger; with her *Pied Piper* coquettish smile she lured Will Carling into her life while the ink was still drying on his marriage certificate; she waited suspicion over Oliver Hoare, allegedly making enough phone calls to make even BT's Bob Hoskins happy.

Women have obviously not been blind to her ways. But being, on the whole, more understanding and more forgiving than men, are they more likely to rally round?

The novelist A.S. Byatt says her sympathy lies with "the situation, not the person... I think most women think that she has been badly treated. But a lot of them feel that we need not go on publicly bothering about her. She should keep

quiet gracefully. I would rather not hear her on the television again."

Joan Bakewell, who knows how it feels to be fêted for one's beauty, believes that Diana will remain the architect of her own fate, "but I certainly think it would be better for her if she took a low profile. She needs to sort herself out, she seems so disturbed and unhappy."

"I think women recognise that she's very useful. She's been a pretty doll for men for so long, but pretty dolls who become difficult suddenly become irritating. Men find their enchantment with her has been tinged and they don't want that. Personally I have become more aware of how distressed she is, and I think the sooner she gives up her addiction to public opinion, the better."

The novelist Fay Weldon agrees that Diana should think twice before squandering what female sympathy she has attracted. "I certainly think there was a great deal of support from women who thought, 'here is a woman who has defied a whole male establishment — and good for her'. She showed that relationships were meant to exist even within the monarchy. It was a case of woman as victim."

"But she's turning out to be rather manipulative. Also, as she grows older, men stop seeing her as a sex object and see her rather more as the kind of woman you get involved with but who then turns out to have been a mistake."

A makeover for sceptics

Philip Delves Broughton on the transforming of the Right

Euro-sceptics are smartening up their act. Shamed by the billionaire's poise of Sir James Goldsmith, they are hurrying out their nerdy striped ties and viscose shirts. Sea island cotton and silk foulard, highly polished shoes and broad velvet braces, all now are *de rigueur* for the thoroughly modern Europhobe.

Take John Redwood, the MP for Wokingham and former Tory leadership challenger. Once derided as the Vulcan, the saw-tooth problem in the mouse-grey suit, he is now a different man. The suits have gone from grey to deep rich blues, the ties from heart-sinking to Hermès.

Redwood's rubicund aide-de-camp, Hywel Williams, is a devotee of Hackett, dresser to ex-Guards officers and aristocratic younger sons. Leading the Redwoods off to America for right-wing head-crunching sessions, he can make Newt Gingrich's team look distinctly dandruffy.



Budget: no style

Bill Cash, MP for Stafford, has always worn clothes of more interest than his politics. A tall man, he must fold down the French cuffs on even the longest shirt sleeves in order to cover his dangling, simian arms. Cash has brought plenty of Euro-sceptic business to his tailor, the suitably named Redwood and Feller in Plumpton.

"Mr Cash is the exception with his broad chalk-striped," says Mr Rowland, the owner of Redwood and Feller, who keeps a Union Jack flying above the door. "Most of our Euro-sceptic clients like very conservative, classic British suits in grey and blue worsted."

Pre-Goldsmith, the defining moment in Euro-sceptic fashion was the change that afflicted Michael Portillo. When he worked in Central Office, Portillo's Terylene socks and too-tight suits were a running joke. Even in Government, he beamed from beneath an unfashionable pudding-bowl fringe.

Then in November 1991, his aides told him that if he wanted to walk with the big boys he could not go on looking like a freshly-showered rugby player.

Suddenly, the country had a minister with a swagger, a quiff and a line in European airport ties — painted, not woven, silk.

Jonathan Aitken, another original Euro-sceptic, has always had a touch of the tycoon about him. His hair has always been perfectly in place, his double-breasted suits immaculate. He is a long way from the dishevelment of Nicholas Budgen. The MP for Wolverhampton South-West's lack of style, both sartorial and social, is a byword in the salons of Westminster.

Andrew Roberts, the right-wing historian and furious fringe-operator, has a taste for hand-made shirts, though his ever-fluctuating physique rather tends to cancel out their benefits.

Redwood insists on wearing his hand-knitted cricket sweater, while in the Portillo wardrobe is said to lurk a much-loved purple and yellow Pringle sweater.

Casualwear is a whole other problem, and one, possibly, even harder to cure. In the meantime, if Goldsmith contributes nothing more to the Euro-sceptics' cause, simply by showing up Tony Marlow's garish blazers and Teresa Gorman's pistachio twin-sets he will have done them an incalculable favour.

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Matthew Parris



Regionalism may be fashionable, but it is a curse, because small nations cannot be properly independent

One ventures with caution into disagreement with a fellow-columnist. Replying to another column can irritate readers who missed it, and besides, Simon Jenkins is perhaps the writer I admire most in his field.

But there is no need to recapitulate his article of May 8 ("Too timid to delegate"). I need only explain that he welcomes the growing self-confidence of "regions" in Europe. He recommends regional nationalism as a force for decentralisation and wonders why the Conservative Party is so hostile to the coming thing.

I agree that regionalism is the coming thing. I detest it. We will regret our enthusiasm for what will prove a regressive force: uncivilising, diminishing, childish.

It is ironic that so very British a writer should celebrate the charms of smaller men with meaner ideas. If Simon or I lived in Scotland we would find our horizons horribly constrained by the carping hatefulness of Scottish nationalism. Confined to Wales, we would rage against what Kim Howells, the MP, calls the

This is the politics of snarl and whine, of the clenched fist and the outstretched palm

encircling world will place huge blocks on its freedom, and the smaller the nation the more painfully obvious this will be. The easiest way for local politicians to pack a hall and raise a cheer will always be to play upon shared resentment of external constraints. If you doubt it, come with me to Scottish Question Time at Westminster. The whole dynamic of regional politics, be it within Britain or in a united Europe, will be to drive down the level of debate towards primitivism: the politics of the snarl and the whine, the clenched fist or the outstretched palm.

When Scotland gets devolution, Scots will start to complain about not getting their money back from London: the whine will not cease, but be joined by an English whine about too much of "our" money going to "them". I believe in empire and in union: in raising eyes to the horizon, transcending race and melting cultures, but small nationalisms look towards and back. If I thought a United States of Europe could work, I'd be for it, but I don't. Empire served Britain and her colonies well, and Union serves us well. The first is over, the second beginning to loosen. Like Simon, I recognise that. Unlike him, I fear this may be counter-revolutionary.

It is too easy to swing about in the metropolis, recommending power for the parishes and autonomy for the provinces. But parochial means parochial and provincial means provincial, and they always will.

Catalans are marvellous individuals: talented, creative and industrious, not unlike the Scots. But *Catalanistas* — the expression denotes the more enthusiastic nationalists — are a tiresome bunch. Their

While we wait for clinching evidence about BSE, there are much commoner diseases to worry about

Today there is yet another meeting of experts in Brussels to consider the issues arising from the BSE epidemic in British cattle. Last Wednesday I attended an all-day meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine on "Spongiform Encephalopathies in Man and Animals". It was intellectually fascinating. I heard two lectures on the epidemiology in man and animals, by Dr Zedler of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh and by Dr Wildsmith of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. In the afternoon I heard Dr Hunter's lecture on the genetics of sheep and cattle, and Dr Moira Bruce's lecture on transmission studies. There was then a panel discussion which centred on the question of whether BSE can be transmitted to man.

Some general impressions came across very clearly. The first was the high quality of the scientific work and the real progress that is being made in study of the disease. The second is that some very important questions are still unanswered. In her compelling lecture on transmission, Dr Bruce asked five of them. I shall list them with my own abbreviation of the answers.

Did BSE originate from sheep scrapie? There is no evidence that it did, but it remains a possibility, as strains of sheep scrapie can be changed permanently by passage through another host animal.

Have new strains been selected in cattle? There is a single major strain of agent in BSE.

Has BSE spread back to sheep? There is no evidence that it has.

Is BSE in other countries related to BSE in the UK? The Swiss strain of BSE is very similar or identical.

Are spongiform encephalopathies

in other species related to BSE? We are still in the process of examining them.

It is, of course, the last question which is vital to public health. Can BSE be transmitted from cow to man? If it cannot, then the British argument in Brussels is amply justified, and the market for British beef ought to be reopened. If it can, then the German point of view is justified, and the ban on British beef, however damaging to our farmers, is a normal public health measure, which we would certainly adopt ourselves if it were foreign beef that suffered from the BSE epidemic.

In about a year's time, at the latest, we shall know for sure whether the BSE agent can infect human beings. The delay is the result of the incubation period of the disease in laboratory mice. There are two key transmission experiments: one is well under way but might not be decisive; the other is about to start.

It has already been established that five particular strains of laboratory mice, can be infected both with scrapie from sheep and with BSE from cows. Scrapie itself has at least 20 different varieties; these have signatures, both in terms of the incubation periods in the different strains of mice, and in terms of the lesions they produce in the brains of the mice. BSE also has its own

signature, different from those of any of the 20 scrapies. If, therefore, an infection of these laboratory mice with material derived from a human case shows the characteristic BSE signature, we shall know for sure that BSE has been transmitted from cow to man to mouse. If, on the other hand, the human agent infects the mouse with a disease with a non-BSE signature, that would be very strong evidence that the human case was not derived from BSE.

The current and ongoing experi-

ment consists of infection of the mice with material from six human cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Two were taken from dairy farmers who had BSE on their farms, and were therefore possible BSE victims, two were from current sporadic cases of CJD, and two were from sporadic cases from the pre-BSE period. This experiment is quite well advanced, but may not be decisive, because it does not deal with the "new" CJD.

The next such transmission experiment will use material from some of the ten "new" cases of CJD which are suspected of having been caused by BSE. These are cases in younger people than generally get CJD — although young CJD cases are not uncommon. If these cases do not produce the BSE signature when transmitted to mice, there will be a very high probability that they are not BSE-related, but if they do, it will be virtually certain that they are.

Because work started in the 1960s, scientists know more about scrapie in sheep than they do about BSE or CJD. Complex different genetic patterns either give sheep immunity to scrapie or make them somewhat or very vulnerable to it. There is less genetic variability in cows; some scientists think that if you feed enough BSE material to cows, all cows will be infected.

Nevertheless, only an average of about one cow in 50 actually suffers from BSE even in infected herds, and no one is quite certain why the other 98 per cent do not. Even if BSE can be transmitted to the human species, not all human beings are equally likely to get it. If human genetic variation proved to be similar to that in sheep, a high proportion of the population might be immune, even if some could be infected with the BSE agent.

At the end of the panel discussion, the members of the audience at the Royal Society of Medicine were asked to vote whether they thought that BSE could be transmitted to man. A few voted "yes"; a few voted "no"; the great majority voted "don't know". On the panel, the consensus view was that only time will tell. BSE does cross the species barrier to cats, mice, other ruminants and marmosets, apparently not to dogs, pigs or poultry.

The only scientific statement at present is that we do not yet know whether BSE can also be transmitted to man, but will know, with a very high degree of probability, fairly soon. "Time will tell", even if that does not help the experts meeting in Brussels today.

One should, in any case, keep a sense of proportion about the health risk. If the "new" CJD cases are caused by BSE, they are still only running at about five a year, ten years into the BSE epidemic itself. We are all several thousand times more likely to suffer from dementia caused by Alzheimer's than from dementia caused by CJD, let alone BSE.

So far, BSE has been a great economic problem for the farming industry, a major veterinary problem, but a minor public health problem. Total British "new" and "old" CJD cases in 1995 were lower than in 1994, and fitted the remarkably consistent world average of between one CJD case per million and one per two million of population. BSE is not what we ought to be most worried about in human health — Alzheimer's, drug-resistant tuberculosis, the spread of malaria, and AIDS itself all represent much greater threats. If we want to keep ourselves awake at night, they, rather than BSE, are what should be giving us insomnia.

The verdict of science on a very rare disease

William Rees-Mogg

How will Blair play it?

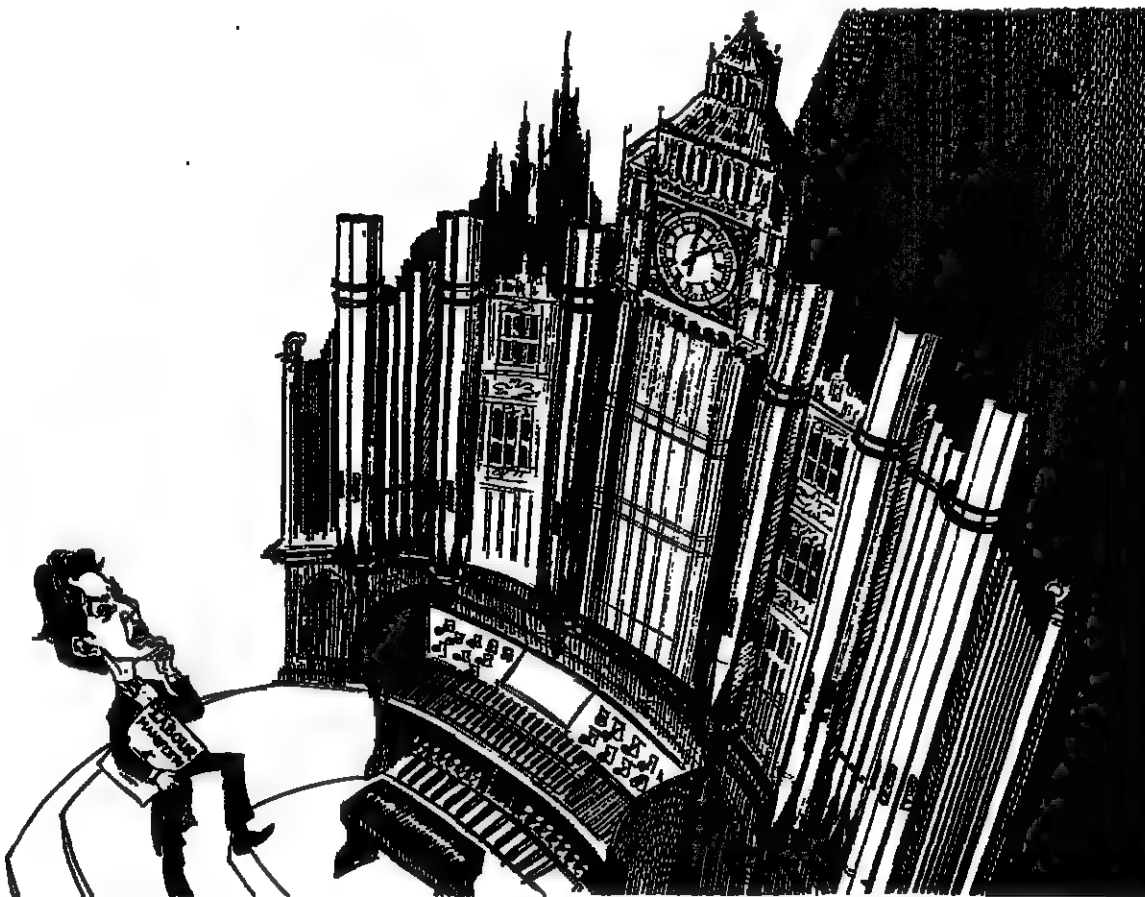
Peter Riddell
on how Labour plans to wield authority in government

Tony Blair will lead from the front if he becomes Prime Minister, as he has in Opposition — and he is already considering changes in the Whitehall machine to allow him to provide such a lead. No decisions have been taken, but the centre of government, 10 Downing Street and the Cabinet Office, is likely to be strengthened, and a small new strategy committee may be created to co-ordinate Labour's programme.

This does not mean that Mr Blair is trying to create a presidential system. Rather, he and his senior advisers — Derek Foster and Peter Mandelson from the Civil Service team and Jonathan Powell, his chief of staff — are tackling two issues which have preoccupied Prime Ministers for 30 years: providing a clear strategic direction for government and ensuring that senior ministers are not overloaded.

Mr Blair has the further difficulty of a Shadow team with the least ministerial experience of any for 70 years. Harold Wilson had only a slightly more experienced team in 1964 when he said he intended to run No 10 "not only as chairman but as a full-time managing director or chief executive". His style changed, however, after the 1967 devaluation and during his 1974-76 administration, when he portrayed himself as "an old-fashioned deep-thinking centre-half, feeding the ball to those whose job it was to score goals, and moving and upfield only for rare set-piece occasions". Mr Blair is likely to follow the former model.

Prime ministers have much less power over other ministers than is often supposed. They hire and fire them, and fix the membership of Cabinet committees, but as Nigel



Lawson noted in *Contemporary Record*, a mutual blackmail exists in the short term between a prime minister and a minister over the activities of his or her department. This has often caused incoherence.

Some prime ministers, such as Harold Wilson and Edward Heath, have tried to streamline the Whitehall machinery. Others, including Margaret Thatcher, have relied more on their strong personalities. Under her, the framework of collective decision-making remained: the poll tax, for example, went through all the formal stages of discussion and approval. What she showed was an extraordinary will and energy in driving the Whitehall machine. By contrast, John Major has operated the existing structure in a more collegial manner, co-opting rather than handbagging his Cabinet colleagues.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Mr Blair is wary of too much tinkering with the machine. The idea of a prime minister's department has been rejected. Instead, Mr Blair's advisers would like to see the Cabinet Office taking on a more active role in pushing forward the government's programme, rather than merely brokering and co-ordinating departmental views. The Cabinet Secretary might no longer combine that post with being Head of the Home Civil Service, but might concentrate on being the "chief whip of Whitehall", overseeing implementation.

The full Cabinet of nearly two dozen is too large to discuss strategy. Most prime ministers have relied on informal, small groups, often dubbed inner cabinets, of up to half-a-dozen senior ministers. Mr Major involved

Douglas Hurd, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, as well as Norman Lamont, on Black Wednesday, when sterling was forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism. That group, plus a couple of other ministers, has shared other key decisions. More formal small committees take decisions during wars.

Labour is thinking about creating a strategy and legislative priorities committee, based on the current "big four": Blair, John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, plus Donald Dewar. They might in effect become "super-ministers" by chairing the relevant Cabinet committees. However, the idea of formal overlord or "super-ministries" is seen as unworkable, creating friction with departments.

Mr Blair does not want to import too many political advisers into Whitehall. Some senior members of

the Downing Street staff may have a more explicitly political than Civil Service background: for instance, a chief of staff and press spokesman. The existing Policy Unit may also be beefed up slightly to provide a longer-term strategic focus, in addition to its short-term tactical work. This dual approach has been the aim of every head of the Policy Unit since the old Think-Tank (the Central Policy Review Staff) was abolished in 1983.

Some Shadow Cabinet members would like to revive the old Think-Tank to advise them all, rather than just the Prime Minister. There is little enthusiasm for having cabinets of external advisers on the continental model, although there may be a more explicit distinction between purely political advisers in private offices (usually young would-be MPs) and genuine experts working as special advisers in policy planning units. This might ease the pressure on senior ministers, although Labour leaders are over-optimistic in hoping that devolution and decentralisation will reduce workloads.

The Treasury always has a pivotal role. Labour politicians have regularly sought countervailing forces against its financial orthodoxy, what Mr Prescott last week called its "dead hand, stifling initiative and innovation". Other powerbases have been set up, notably the Department of Economic Affairs in 1964, and most have failed. Mr Brown has suggested broadening the Treasury's formal objectives to include job creation and equality of opportunity. Other Labour leaders are suspicious about enhancing not just the Treasury's power (creating a "Super-Treasury" in Mr Prescott's words) but also Mr Brown's. The machinery cannot be separated from those who pull the levers.

The fate of any Labour government will be determined less by such changes than by Mr Blair's success in directing and managing his colleagues. If he enters Downing Street, he will quickly learn the truth of Lord Lawson of Blaby's view that "prime ministers do not feel themselves nearly as powerful as they are widely made out to be, and, in my experience, would like to be".

Uncharitable

BARONESS THATCHER may allow herself a discreet smile of triumph. Christian Action, one of the few effective voices of opposition to her in the 1980s, is to close after half a century of charity work at home and abroad.

The organisation's director, Canon Eric James, was the driving force behind *Faith in the City*, the report by Robert Runcie, then Archbishop of Canterbury, which criticised government work in the inner cities. The document was rubbished by mysterious senior government sources as "Marxist theology", and was the cause of years of extremely frosty relations between the Anglican hierarchy and the Government.

Christian Action, which numbered Lords Longford, Hailsham and Runcie among its founding fathers, will wind up with a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's in December, having worked in many fields. Its first task, in 1947, was to speed up the release of German prisoners of war, and it was deeply involved in South Africa during the apartheid years.

Now, says Canon James, it is simply broke. "We have run out of money. The habit now is for people to contribute to single-issue chari-

ties. I think there is a time to live and a time to die."

One who mourns the organisation's passing is Lord Longford. "It undoubtedly achieved a great deal," he says, "but I feel sure that its spirit will be carried on in some other charities."

● The Royal Family is up for sale. Margaret Thatcher too is available to the highest bidder. The Friarage Waxworks Museum in



"I have to ask, Madam, are you by any chance a Serb?"

York is to close later this year, and its famous figures will be auctioned off. The Princess of Wales (with optional Buckingham Palace balcony) is expected to provoke the fiercest bidding, but the Wax Lady would be an ideal handbag stand.

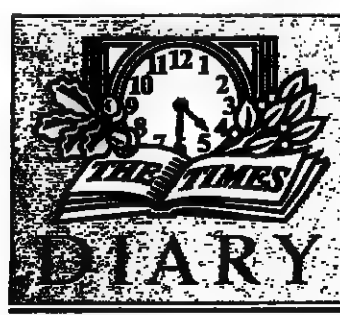
Lily delivered

ROYAL green fingers will be busy at the Chelsea Flower Show today. Princess Alexandra is to hold aloft a new alstroemeria lily and name it... after herself.

In part she will be celebrating her own success at nurturing the flower, in her garden in Richmond Park. Visiting the show two years ago, she spotted the then anonymous seedlings on the stand of Peter J. Smith, a former gold medal-winner. "They weren't for sale then, but I gave her a dozen plants and she came back last year and said how well they were doing," says Smith. "I asked her if she would name the lily HRH Princess Alexandra and she agreed."

Le roi

SOME OF Eric Cantona's most ardent followers are not unduly concerned by his exclusion from the French squad for the Euro 96. They believe he has a higher calling. For the "Eric the King Society", the



maverick Frenchman is a monarch in waiting.

The group has released a record, *Manic Attitude*, to promote this perhaps slightly eccentric belief, and has been recruiting members through Eric look-a-like contests in the North West of England.

The fanaticism should not be underestimated. Pete Boyle, the Warwick the Kingmaker of this daffy band, has moved across Manchester so that his postcode includes IMU after the Old Trafford team. He has even named his daughter Cantona. Better than Eric, I suppose.

Broken ice

ANY SUSPICIONS about German intentions in Europe must be put aside by our man in Iceland. The British diplomatic delegation and their German counterparts have

shacked up together in a joint embassy in Reykjavik.

Cohabitation was agreed in order to keep warm, after economies at the end of the Cold War. Shared facilities include staff restrooms, kitchens, lavatories, and even interview rooms. "It's a brand spanking new modernist building," says Jim McCulloch, the proud British Ambassador. "We have collocated with the Germans and were meant to be in with Italy as well, but they did not move in. We share a canteen which has a microwave and a place to brew our coffee."

McCulloch insists, however, that security will not be a problem.



Grandma Pet

"Luckily, we don't have any secrets in Reykjavik."

Baby match

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER was complaining yesterday that he was being assailed on two fronts. At his Really Useful Group's race day at Newbury he was reeling from an eye-popping hangover after a riotous Eurovision Song Contest party the night before. And his recovery from the boozing had not been aided by the onslaught from his newborn daughter, Isabel Aurora. Apparently she has been trumpeting her own arrival so forcefully that he suggests she should have been called Boreas — Greek for wind. None of this dissuaded Petula Clarke, who has just become a grandmother, from trying to matchmake the two babies.

Grrl talk

A VICTORY for feminism. Virago, the women's publisher which caused a kerfuffle last year when it announced that it was planning to publish books by men, has changed its mind. The company, which has been bought by Little Brown, has appointed Sally Abbey as its senior editor to scour the world for fresh female talent. It is being suggested that the new fic-



Ms Virago: Sally Abbey

tion list should be aggressively titled "Grrls". Abbey says that it was decided that recruiting men was foolish and bad for business. "Virago had a real niche in the market, which it endangered by saying that it would publish both sexes," she says. "We're going back to women — I've heard that Pamela Anderson is writing her post-modernist novel as we speak."

P-H-S



CLOUD OVER EURO 96

Time for all good supporters to come to the aid of the game

Violent disturbances have been disfiguring English football for so long that many people not directly concerned with the game may have stopped noticing local eruptions of trouble. In the last month alone, fans have attacked rival supporters, the police and a club's directors in Newcastle, Hull, Brighton and Ipswich. Many injuries and arrests marked each outbreak.

In three weeks' time, the English football authorities mount their most ambitious football tournament since the 1966 World Cup: Euro 96. The very staging of a three-week, eight-city international competition in England is an act of supreme optimistic defiance. Most English football fans are wholly peaceable: a small number are notorious and dangerous. English fans are not the only ones who fight: Dutch, German and Italian thugs have all made mayhem in recent memory. But the English record abroad is the worst, stretching back at least as far as the notorious European Championship of 1980 when policemen lobbed gas canisters at England fans in Turin. The list of England's previous convictions is worse than those of any other nationality that sends its football supporters abroad. However unfair it may be for the majority of fans, crowds of English supporters now almost invariably attract trouble.

A couple of years ago the tragedies of Bradford, Heysel and Hillsborough seemed to be receding into the past. The culture of violence was slowly being cured by a combination of better police intelligence, closed circuit TV cameras, all-seat stadiums and, perhaps, by a realisation of the human and material damage and disgrace that hooliganism can cause. Attendances at football games continued to rise while convictions for violence began to fall. English teams were allowed back into Europe. But those

changes did nothing to discourage the hard core of violent people who plan and provoke riots for pleasure. Last year, a "friendly" international between England and Ireland had to be abandoned so that the police might regain control of the stadium.

One inescapable conclusion stands out. The conduct of Euro 96 will determine the reputation and European opportunities for the national team and English clubs for years to come. As we report on page 4, disorder is all too probable. Trouble here next month could result in England being banned from the World Cup and other international tournaments. England's football fans, clubs and police forces are on probation.

Police forces do not want to set aside scarce manpower in policing stadiums or to put their officers at risk of injury. But investigation of the roots of football violence over the past decade and a half has revealed the existence of sophisticated conspiracies which can be tackled only by long-term surveillance and detection. Five separate pieces of legislation dealing with everything from alcohol to pitch invasion have been put on the statute book in the last 11 years. International co-ordination has improved by degrees, although England's detectives rightly complain that foreign police forces are unwilling to undertake surveillance and pre-emptive action against known trouble-makers.

Carefully designed measures are in place in Britain. Euro 96 will pose the question of football violence in the starkest possible form. The clubs, the law and the police can prove that the football disease is close to being cured. Or they will point the way to more drastic restrictions on a sport that so persistently attracts so much repulsive behaviour.

RED ARMY MIRE

Britain can teach Russia something about a professional army

Election politics springs many a surprise in Russia. After almost two weeks of vacillation in hopes of a quiet, diplomatic solution, Moscow ordered the withdrawal of four British diplomats. Following explicit warnings, Britain promptly enforced the same order on four Russians. The measures will harm Anglo-Russian relations, however hard both sides try to ensure otherwise. The Russian move was ill-judged and short-sighted. But, in the eyes at least of the Yeltsin entourage looking for electoral advantage, the incident was not ill-timed.

Using spy scares to bolster his nationalist credentials is one of the unpleasant aspects of Mr Yeltsin's campaign. Another move, however, also forced by the public mood, is wholly welcome: his announcement that conscription in the Russian Army is to end over the next four years; he has also announced that no soldier will be sent to Chechnya against his will. Both moves have clear electoral appeal.

Being called up into the demoralised Russian Army is a threat hanging over every young Russian male, made worse by the prospect of being sent, almost untrained, into the Chechen mire. Mr Yeltsin's move, while courting the votes of millions of young people and their parents, is no more than recognising reality. The army has seen an epidemic of desertion and draft-dodging. No more than 20 per cent of those called up report for service. The use of conscripts in war zones has been disastrous. Frightened men have been slaughtered in large numbers; seeking courage in drink, many have looted, raped and pillaged; morale has all but broken down; and the reputation of the Russian Army as a disciplined and responsible fighting force has been severely damaged.

The ending of conscription, however, can only be the prelude to more thoroughgoing reform. The Army, pampered and indulged by the Soviet State, was once the pride of the country. It is in a sorry state now. Numbers have shrunk to about two million, including the semi-autonomous Interior Ministry forces. But the superstructure, the budget, the military doctrine and the political outlook remain bloated, outdated, inefficient and corrupt. Russian military experts say that about 90,000 new officers graduate from universities and military academies each year, whereas only about 10,000 are needed in a slimmer-down army. In most armies no more than 0.05 per cent of the manpower are generals, but in Russia a full 1 per cent — some 2,000 men — hold that rank.

There is a severe shortage of non-commissioned officers, the heart of any fighting force. Conscripts are treated like serfs — underpaid, overworked, badly fed and used as cheap civilian labour or treated by officers as private servants. So horrendous are the stories of starvation, deprivation, sexual abuse and intimidation that hundreds of conscripts commit suicide each year.

There has been talk of change to a professional army for years, but no one dared take on the entrenched interests of the huge officer class. Now electoral politics and the runaway military budget may force changes. If Pavel Grachev, the mulish and ineffective Defence Minister, is replaced, the reforms could yet go ahead, despite the cost. This is an area where Britain has valuable experience to offer. If a line is to be drawn under the spy affair, British officers could work closely with Russia to make its army the kind of professional force that would be less of a threat to its people, its Government and, in the end, its neighbours.

THE ADVENTUROUS EYE

Portraits of the artist as a craftsman innovator

The Degas exhibition that opens at the National Gallery on Wednesday is more than just a unique assembly of famous and unknown works of art. It gets inside the mind of one of the world's most elusive and controversial artists.

For Degas has as many paradoxes as Zeno, the pioneer of the counterintuitive puzzle. He was the crusty old bachelor who painted women in the bath, drying themselves or combing their hair with more insight, compassion and affection than any artist before or since. He was the only Impressionist with a training in the traditions of academic orthodoxy and the heavy French historical school. But at the same time he was the only Impressionist who refused to escape from the prison of the studio to paint out of doors or directly from nature. And he admitted that the appearance of spontaneity in his paintings was artful: "No art was ever less spontaneous than mine."

Some critics have interpreted Degas as a grumpy recluse, whose talent deteriorated with his eyesight, so that he became obsessed with increasingly crude and simple repetitions of women at their toilet and chocolate-box Lolita ballerinas. This first full exhibition of Degas' later work, for which the Times is a sponsor, suggests explanations for this and other puzzles, as well as making belated restitution for the reviews of our baffled art critics a century ago. Pastels and charcoal sketches on tracing paper (which had to be brought around the world

in specially designed jolt-free boxes in order to avoid dislodging their powdery media) exhibit a man with a magnificent obsession as well as a passion for experiment. Many of his serial images of developing themes have not been seen side by side since the closing-down sale at his studio. When will there be an opportunity to see them together again?

To observe the development of one of his themes by the ageing Degas is to watch a restless adventurer en route for modernism. He was too much in love with the female body ever to become an abstract artist. But his constant experimentation with line, form and colour lights up the motorway from Ingres to Picasso. For Degas can now be seen as a constant innovator as well as a classic draughtsman and master of composition. His pictures of the female body in motion and privacy echo the works of his contemporary novelists and poets, concerned with modern life behind the scenes in the big city.

The final paradox is that his rivals spoke well of Degas, and many rated him their greatest. And in spite of his reclusive reputation, he was a team player. The parallel exhibition at the National Gallery of Degas as collector and promoter of his Impressionist friends shows a generous man free from the jealousy and self-absorption that sometimes go with genius. Anybody who wants to watch the mind of this magnificent artist at work, as well as see his immortal and experimental works, should hurry to the National Gallery.

Change of strategy on fighting crime

From Lord Ackner

Sir, The White Paper, *Protecting the Public*, which is to be debated in the House of Lords on May 23, carries the statement that "in the last few years we have developed and implemented a co-ordinated strategy on crime".

The Home Secretary's memory does not apparently stretch back to 1990 when the Government issued a White Paper on which the Criminal Justice Act, 1991, was founded. This was somewhat similarly entitled *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*.

The 1990 White Paper did not suggest that "prison works", apart from its "warehousing function". On the contrary it said "nobody now regards imprisonment, in itself, as an effective means of reform for most prisoners" — it can be "an expensive way of making bad people worse" — "it is unrealistic to construct sentencing arrangements on the assumption that most offenders will weigh the possibilities in advance and base their conduct on rational calculation" — "it is unrealistic to expect most prisoners to emerge at the end of their sentence as reformed characters".

But on the subject which has stimulated much judicial criticism of the 1990 White Paper, namely interference with the judicial discretion by the imposition of minimum sentences and mandatory life sentences, the 1990 White Paper says in terms, "No government should try to influence the decision of the courts in individual cases. The independence of the judiciary is rightly regarded as a cornerstone of our liberties."

But even more to the point it states: "It is not the Government's intention that Parliament should bind the courts with strict legislative guidelines. The courts have shown great skill in the way they sentence exceptional cases. The courts will properly continue to have the wide discretion they need if they are to deal justly with the great variety of crimes which come before them. The Government rejects a rigid statutory framework on the lines of those introduced in the United States, or a system of minimum or mandatory sentences for certain offences. This would make it more difficult to sentence justly exceptional cases. It would also result in more acquittals by juries, with more guilty men and women going free unjustly as a result."

The minister seems to be suffering from a strange form of amnesia.

Yours faithfully,
ACKNER,
House of Lords.
May 17.

European Court

From Mr Paul Farmer

Sir, In his article of May 7, "A change of heart on Europe", Woodrow Wyatt makes two points about the European Court of Justice which seem to reflect general misunderstandings of the court in the United Kingdom.

First, he says that the Court of Justice is "composed of a majority of academicians, not practising lawyers". In fact the members of the court come from a variety of backgrounds, which could be regarded as a source of strength. A large majority of the current members have substantial judicial or practical experience, and only a small minority have a predominantly academic background. In any event, as Professor Graham Zellick has recently pointed out in your columns (letter, April 22), academic lawyers have often made outstanding judges.

Secondly, he refers to "anger at seeing the overturning of decisions of our experienced and better qualified judges". The European Court of Justice has no power to overturn decisions of British courts. Its function in relation to British courts is to help them to apply Community law by answering questions referred by British judges.

The latter have often said that the Court of Justice is better qualified to answer questions of Community law than British judges and have readily made use of the opportunity to obtain rulings from the Court of Justice.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. FARMER (Legal secretary),
Court of Justice of the
European Communities,
Kirchberg, Luxembourg.
May 13.

Nailing the problem

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, Following the unveiling of Antony Williams' portrait of the Queen, [reports, May 8, 9; article May 10] an often ignored topic can be brought into the open: just what can be done about broken fingernails?

I've been trying to solve the problem for years, and I am much younger than 70. I now feel the matter to be of some urgency, in case someone wants to paint my portrait.

Yours truly,
EDWARD THOMAS,
Flat 4, 21 Jevington Gardens,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
May 9.

From Mrs Joan Atkins

Sir, Jan Morris's face may change when confronted by a photographer (letter, May 11) — but her hands?

I am 75 and in the unlikely event of having my portrait painted, I think I would sit on mine.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN ATKINS,
21 Courtyards,
Little Shelford, Cambridge.
May 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Danger of misleading with university 'Ivy League'

From Mr Richard Leathes

Sir, Your front-page report of May 13, "Top universities forced into new Ivy League", demonstrates that today's applicants need extensive, accurate, up-to-date and objective guidance on how to research the whole issue of university entrance and careers.

Setting the boundaries between the "ins" and "outs" of such a league risks the reinforcement of prejudice and entrenched views and may discourage those applying for places, recruiting graduates or funding research from considering other institutions equally or more worthy of their attention — to the detriment of all concerned.

League tables can be a dangerous distraction from the key issues. Consultants like ourselves spend much of our time trying to draw students, particularly those from overseas, away from the concept that what is "best" is what they or their families and friends perceive to be most acceptable socially and persuade them instead to consider what is most suitable for their individual requirements.

The strength of the British university system lies in its diversity and in the autonomy of its institutions. The answer to the widespread concern about standards is not an Ivy League but greater quality control and a "kite mark" that can be recognised internationally.

Yours etc,
RICHARD LEATHES
(Director),
Gabbitts Educational Consultants,
Cardington House,
126-130 Regent Street, W1.
May 14.

From the Chief Executive of the
Committee of Vice-Chancellors
and Principals

Sir, To rank universities on a single scale, as your league table (May 17) purports to do, is misleading and does a disservice to intending students.

Every university degree is unique. That is the essential quality of higher education, and what separates it from the world of schools and national examinations.

It is why students have to choose their courses carefully. Making the

right choice can be helped by single indicator league tables, on anything from the number of workstations to accommodation prices.

Your week of coverage, which preceded the overall league, contained valuable information which was no doubt useful to applicants. But I would be very concerned were any intending students to use your final league table as a serious guide to where they should spend three or four vital years.

That table combines many single indicators into one, using weightings determined by *The Times's* idea of what an institution should be, and what students want.

Such an approach is ludicrously monolithic. Universities are very different from each other. Students are more diverse than ever. The middle-class male, aged 18 and fresh from school, is not the norm.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA WARWICK,
Chief Executive,
CVCP,
29 Tavistock Square, WC1.
May 17.

From Mr Edward Lipman and
Dr V. A. C. Gatrell

Sir, We must refute the implication in your report today (May 13), headed "Making your choice", that the higher the ratio of applicants to acceptances, the stronger an Oxford or Cambridge college is in a particular subject.

Peterhouse and Caius, which you list as having "average" and "slightly lower than average" applications in history, are widely regarded as the two strongest colleges in history in Cambridge.

In firsts as a percentage of students sitting exams in history from each college, they usually lead the rest of Cambridge by a substantial margin and have done so for many years.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LIPMAN
(Research Fellow in History,
Peterhouse),
V. A. C. GATRELL
(Lecturer in History,
Gonville and Caius),
University of Cambridge.
May 13.

enough regional groupings in the UK to form the basis of a second chamber; and without sensible constituencies, the "upper" House will attract only candidates who feel they have poor chances of election to the more powerful "lower" chamber.

There is, however, a possible alternative: proportional representation. PR has long been supported by parties which happen to be the current losers in the first-past-the-post system, and it is feared by the rest; but, confined to a single chamber, it would provide a real alternative assembly, representative in a different way of the electorate as a whole, which might even rank sometimes as superior to the Commons.

PR could thus be an effective vehicle for the provision of checks and balances. It would be simple and cheap to introduce.

Yours sincerely,
C. D. HARBURY,
Bridge House, Pakenham,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
May 18.

Young people's fitness

From the National Director,
NABC — Clubs for Young People

Sir, I am in a unique position to comment on your article concerning lack of fitness in today's young people (Education, May 10).

Until recently I commanded the Army's recruit training organisation and was an end user of the product of the education system. I was as deeply critical of the fitness of modern youth as the military spokesmen in your article. I now head one of the country's largest, non-uniformed movements for young people and, while my views on fitness have not changed, I have a different perspective.

There is a largely ignored, underfunded middle course, which is devoted to assisting young people make the transition from childhood and school to adulthood and work. That course is provided by statutory and voluntary youth organisations.

NABC — Clubs for Young People aids the development of some 300,000

young people, in 2,000 clubs spread nationwide. Our extensive programme of physical and other activities promotes personal, physical and social development.

I know from my military service that young people who belong to such organisations have up to a 50 per cent better chance of passing the demanding recruit training course than those who rely solely on their formal education. Similar success rates are probably to be found in other areas of employment. Our members are not only fitter, but more self-confident and better motivated.

Sadly, throughout the youth movement, public funds are at a premium. Arguably, a modest increase in investment here would give a more rewarding return than do the huge sums spent on "boot camps" and other remedial action.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN GROVES, National Director,
NABC — Clubs for Young People,
371 Kennington Lane, SE11.
May 18.

'Powered by air'

From Mr A. K. L. Dymoke-Bradshaw

Sir, Whilst I am sure many applaud the progress by Daimler-Benz in the development of fuel cells and their possible application as an automotive power source ("Breath-taking...", May 15), let us not forget from where the energy comes.

It is not from the air, any more than a petrol engine is powered by air. The hydrogen fuel is certainly oxidised by the oxygen in the air, but this applies to all combustion engines except rockets, which carry their own oxidant.

No, the energy source will still be the regular sources — fossil, nuclear, wind, wave, tidal and solar — as these will be used to produce the hydrogen.

What the fuel cell could do is to remove the pollution to a place where, perhaps, given sufficient motivation, it can be dealt with more easily and

where the combustion could perhaps be more controlled and produce less of the more unpleasant products.

In addition it could give us quieter and more comfortable vehicles: I remember the smooth trolley buses of London.

The electric propulsion also offers improved energy savings as it will be easier to recycle the kinetic energy of a vehicle via motor-generator transmission and braking systems.

Yours faithfully,
A. K. L. DYMOKE-BRADSHAW,
10 Badgers Wood,
Farnham Common,
Buckinghamshire.
May 15.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

From the President of the Institution
of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, You report, as driving forces for the emergence of a new "Ivy League" among our universities, the needs of university and overseas students for quality.

There is also much concern in the engineering profession that the increase in the provision of university education has undermined standards in some areas.

In its role to accredit university courses as part of the qualification of chartered engineers, this institution's rolling review covered 39 universities last year; in only four cases were courses given immediate and unconditional accreditation for a further five years. Wider debate in the profession may well result in a raising of standards to ensure ongoing international competitiveness of our professional engineers.

We should remember, however, that the age of an academic establishment is no guide to its output standards and a university with a premier division place in one subject area may be well down the list in others.

Yours faithfully,
F. CHRIS PRICE, President,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1.
May 13.

From Professor Ron Johnston

Sir, You quote Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University, as advising would-be university students to plan their applications from the age of 14, "ensuring their free time is used on activities which will impress admissions tutors" ("Make the most of your assets", May 13).

I trust that other university vice-chancellors and their admissions tutors will publicly disagree with him and tell 14-year-olds to enjoy their adolescence and experiment in the use of their free time (indeed, to make sure they have plenty of it). They can join the rat-race of "CV boosters" much later in life.

Yours etc,
RON JOHNSTON (Vice-Chancellor,
Essex University, 1992-95),
123 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
May 14.

Village halls

From Mrs M. Burgess

Sir, I was interested in the juxtaposition of Mr David Mellor's remarks deriding the idea of millennium grants to village halls with the news of a £40 million grant of lottery funds to the Albert Hall (reports, May 15).

A village hall grant would be welcomed by those of us who live in rural communities, distant from concert halls, theatres and art galleries. We use our halls as a base for social and educational activities and much more, and some lottery money for refurbishment, updating of facilities or building extensions would be greatly appreciated. It will really please the "grassroots" communities.

These grants would in all probability still be remembered and enjoyed long after the Albert Hall is due for yet further costly renovation.

To put money back into the whole countryside to reach "grassroots" communities in the smallest villages would seem to be an excellent way of celebrating the millennium.

Yours faithfully,
M. BURGESS
(Vice-Chairman,
Stone and District Village
Hall Management Committee),
Fokeley House, Woodford,
Berkeley, Gloucestershire.
May 15.

Bird scarers

From Mrs Geoffrey Burnand

Sir, The modern bird scarer is no longer a traditional loud bang but a series of noises imitating, amongst others, the following: a stoat killing a rabbit, a hawk, a police siren, a milking parlour and a football rattle.

These sounds have been operating for at least 14 hours every day about 100 yards from my house where I and my family are variously studying for A levels, BAs and MAs. To an extent one could tolerate the natural sounds of nature, such as the first two, but I feel that the other three are going a bit far.

At last, to my great relief the MAFF, whose field it is, tells me the thing has been removed. I am not sure whether this is in response to complaints or simply because, despite the introduction of a new noise almost daily, the birds had been completely ignoring it.

Yours faithfully,
JULIE BURNAND,
Freefolk House, Martyn Worthy,
Winchester, Hampshire.
May 18.

In the soup

From Mr Roger Kirk

Sir, Today I bought in my local branch of Tesco a container of Fresh Seasonal Parsnip Soup, to be used by May 20, and inscribed "New for Winter".

Is this the confirmation of my worst climatic suspicions?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER KIRK,
Gosson's Cottage, Oulton, York.
May 16.

OBITUARIES

MALCOLM MacEWEN

Malcolm MacEwen, journalist, writer and countryside campaigner, died on May 11 aged 84. He was born on December 24, 1911.

VERY much a product of his own age and time, Malcolm MacEwen cut a swathe of irrepressible and impudent rebellion through a series of more or less hidebound institutions. Of these the most important were the Communist Party, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the National Parks.

He was born respectfully enough, the son of an Inverness solicitor, Sir Alexander MacEwen, who also floated companies in the Far East and fought a significant by-election for the Scottish Nationalists as early as 1933.

Malcolm MacEwen read Forestry at Aberdeen and Law at Edinburgh. While an apprentice solicitor in that city, his student Marxism was reinforced by contemplating the size of the unearned incomes whose tax arrangements he helped to oversee. This brought him into the Communist Party, which he served from 1940 until 1956, first checking the Scottish *Daily Worker* for libel (not apparently an onerous task), later as a parliamentary candidate when required, then as a party organiser in the North East of England and finally from 1943 on the *Daily Worker* in London.

These were busy years in which his great natural gifts of organisation, controversy and rhetoric were fully employed, but they were not without darkens. He wore an artificial limb for most of his life, having lost his right leg in a motorcycle accident when he was only 21. This did not, for instance, stop him stumping briskly up Kinder Scout at the age of 70, when he attended the 50th anniversary of the mass trespass on the once forbidden Peak District hills. In 1937 he married Barbara Stebbing, who died in 1944 from the complications of her diabetes. They had a daughter born so mentally and physically handicapped that she could not live outside an institution. In his autobiography MacEwen touches briefly on the anguish of the decisions this involved for the parents and, after Barbara's death, for him alone.

MacEwen's principal job



for the *Daily Worker* was to serve as its House of Commons Gallery man, but he also did a spell as foreign editor. With E. P. Thompson and others, he was a strong advocate of internal party democracy and he broke with the *Worker* when it suppressed its own reporter's dispatches from the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. Shortly afterwards he left the party too, having been involved in setting up *The New Reasoner* and *New Left Review*.

MacEwen was never ashamed of his party years and remained a Marxist. He argued that, whatever the crimes of Stalinism (and he was not blind to them), the rank and file of the party had fought a good fight from Spain, through the Nazi occupation of Europe and on to Greece and beyond. The repression of the Left in Greece, which he reported on for the *Daily Worker*, made a powerful and lasting impression upon him.

He relaunched himself as a journalist on *The Architects' Journal*, then a very lively forum, where he produced an early analysis of the environmental and social disadvantages of the car in a special

issue called *Motropolis*. He spent the 1960s and early 1970s with the Royal Institute of British Architects where he eventually became director of public affairs. Shortly after retiring from RIBA he produced *Crisis in Architecture*, which was sharply critical of the institute and of the draining of social concern from modern architecture. It says a lot for his lack of rancour in debate that RIBA nevertheless made him an honorary fellow.

MacEwen's third career began in retirement in the Somerset village of Wootton Courtenay where, on the

sporting month quite like it, nor, in the more austere climate which prevails today, is any successor ever likely to do so. Langley had reached the final of the English championship, in which he lost to H. G. Bentley, from a field which included C. J. H. Tolley, R. H. Wetherell, L. G. Crawley, G. A. Hill, J. F. Pennink, G. H. Micklem, R. H. Oppenheimer and Charlie Stowe — all the best English players of the day, in fact.

Of his victory over Tolley in the semi-final, Bernard Darwin wrote in *The Times*: "This was a remarkable achievement by a very fine young golfer, who plays the game not only with a mechanical precision, rare indeed in one of his age, but plays it in a manner, quiet, modest and serene, such as is a real pleasure to see." But over 36 holes at Pine Valley, Langley found the Americans too strong for him.

Back from the States, he went up to Cambridge where P. B. Lucas, captain of the golf side, gave him his Blue on his first day in residence, a unique departure. Only two years later Langley's senior, Lucas had overlapped with him at Stowe and been a member of the same British Walker Cup side. Of the Cambridge golf side in 1937, no fewer than five were Old Sticks. In 1938 Langley added a cricket Blue to his golf

nomination of the Ramblers' Association, he was given a seat on the Exmoor National Park committee, and swiftly determined to stop the ploughing up of the park's dwindling open moors, a process which, in his view, the committee was aiding and abetting. The somnolent members of the committee never knew what had hit them: as an old hand at CP and RIBA infighting, he ran rings round them by his command of rhetoric and publicity. After several years of his lone battling, the Government set up an inquiry headed by the Queen's racing manager, Lord Porchester, who found comprehensively and unequivocally that MacEwen was right and that the committee, the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association were wrong. The moors were safe.

There followed two books on the National Park system written jointly with Ann, his second wife, whom he had married in 1947. In effect, they became the intellectual conscience of the British National Park system in which, for a handful of outstanding landscapes, local government and the voluntary movement are yoked in an uneasy and not always workable partnership.

Ann trained as an architect and became an architect-planner with the London County Council and was later a member of Colin Buchanan's partnership. They brought up their daughters in a tall house on Tanza Road next to Hampstead Heath. Rather self-consciously, MacEwen asserted that this was the unfashionable end of Hampstead, a claim that became increasingly untenable as the district moved upmarket.

He took an active interest in the amenities of the area. One of the longest speeches he ever made was in Hampstead Town Hall where, having risen to fill a 15-minute slot, he found himself covering for an expected speaker who failed to turn up. Ad lib and nonetheless, he went on for more than an hour and a half — not in the cause of communism but of the local suburban railway line which Dr Beeching had marked down for closure. Dr Beeching lost.

He is survived by his wife Ann, a daughter by the second marriage and two stepdaughters. The daughter from his first marriage predeceased him.

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY DAWES

Professor Geoffrey Dawes, CBE, FRS, Director of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, Oxford, 1948-85, died on May 6 aged 78. He was born on January 21, 1918.

GEOFFREY DAWES was a pioneering and international figure in foetal physiology for more than thirty years. A product of the Oxford schools of Physiology and Pharmacology, he pursued a long and productive career that not only contributed substantially to the modern science of foetal physiology but, after his retirement, to the development of numerical systems of analysing the foetal heart-rate in human beings. These latter are now used for diagnosis in Obstetrics departments worldwide.

Geoffrey Sherman Dawes was educated at Repton and New College, Oxford, where he was a commoner. The examiners who placed him in the first class in Animal Physiology in 1939 greatly surprised his own tutor; but they had detected the clear intelligence and flair for the subject that were to bring Dawes such distinction in later life.

After qualifying medically in 1943, he worked under Professor J. H. Burn in the Department of Pharmacology at Oxford. A Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship in 1946 sent him for a year to the United States, where a paper on the pharmacology of the receptors in the heart gained him a personal letter of commendation from the editors of the journal to which he had submitted it.

Dawes returned to Oxford as university demonstrator in Pharmacology and fellow and lecturer of Worcester College in 1947. At once he was awarded a Foulerton research fellowship of the Royal Society, which he held while continuing to work at Oxford. In 1948 those who had not followed his work carefully were astounded by his election, at the age of 30, to the directorship of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research.

Over the years, he moulded this into a first-class laboratory of experimental physiology. With characteristic good sense he chose a field of study that needed neither expert knowledge of other sciences nor unduly elaborate equipment — but that all the same had been badly neglected. Dawes's investigations into the respiratory and cardiovascular function of newborn mammals, which he carried out in sheep and from time to time in monkeys in Puerto Rico, were of worldwide repute. It is said that recognition in his own



country was so long delayed. Dawes had considerable administrative ability. He served on the General Board of the Faculties and other important bodies, where his fresh approach and sound judgement were much valued. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1971 and was appointed CBE in 1981. He also served as a member and, later as chairman, of the editorial board of the *British Journal of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy*.

After his retirement in 1985 he remained relentlessly busy. No one could be found to continue the work of foetal physiology in the Nuffield Institute, which was transformed into a very different research centre (it is now the Institute of Molecular Medicine). Dawes was immediately recruited as the first director of a similar establishment — the Sunley Research Centre at Charing Cross Hospital.

Even in his later years, original papers (more than thirty) continued to flow from his pen: they described his pioneering analyses of human foetal heart rate patterns. Such are recorded routinely in every obstetric department in the Western world for diagnostic purposes; but Dawes was the first to appreciate that, without objective numerical measurements, their interpretation could never be exact.

To analyse the large volume of data, computerised methods were necessary. Dawes was quick to capitalise on new computer technology to develop a system that not only is widely used now as a clinical tool but was honoured with a British Design Award in 1990 for the elegance of its presentation and methods. Three days before his sudden death he was eagerly planning the next phase of his analyses with the zest, enthusiasm and scientific precision that characterised all his work.

His retirement gave him other opportunities: he continued with his lifelong love of fly fishing and enjoyed being able to commit more time to gardening. He travelled widely for relaxation and to attend scientific meetings where he was often a major contributor. His day began at 5am but there was always time to welcome visitors and guests, whose company and friendship he hugely enjoyed.

Those who knew him well, and noted with admiration the uncomplaining way in which he faced the asthma which affected him all his life, held him in great affection, and admired his character no less than his intellectual excellence.

In 1941 he married Margaret Monk, who survives him with their two sons and two daughters.

J. D. A. LANGLEY

John Langley, amateur golfer, died in London on April 27 aged 78. He was born in Northwood, Middlesex, on April 25, 1918.

JOHN LANGLEY achieved sporting fame as a prodigious schoolboy golfer. In April 1936, during the Easter holidays from Stowe, he reached the final of the English Amateur Championship at Deal, on the strength of which he was chosen to play, later that year, for Great Britain and Ireland against the United States in the Walker Cup at Pine Valley, New Jersey. The invitation to play in the Walker Cup, even then the greatest and most intensely contested of all amateur golf matches, had actually been sent to him at school.

John Douglas Algernon Langley was fortunate in that Stowe was one of the very few schools in those days to have its own golf course, and he used it to fit in what practice he could for the Walker Cup between captaining the school cricket XI and averaging 70 with the bat.

In the week that he boarded the ship which took the British team from Glasgow to Boston, he scored 98 not out for the Public Schools against the Army at Lord's. "Langley revealed a fine array of strokes," said *Wisden*. No other 18-year-old can ever have had a

sporting month quite like it, nor, in the more austere climate which prevails today, is any successor ever likely to do so.

Langley had reached the final of the English championship, in which he lost to H. G. Bentley, from a field which included C. J. H. Tolley, R. H. Wetherell, L. G. Crawley, G. A. Hill, J. F. Pennink, G. H. Micklem, R. H. Oppenheimer and Charlie Stowe — all the best English players of the day, in fact.

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Blue, making 119 against Glamorgan at Swansea, his one first-class century, and he was just as good at squash; but golf was his main game.

For ten years after going down from Cambridge, Langley lived in Australia. He was a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force in the Second World War, mainly in the Pacific. He returned to Britain and briefly went into the family business Sieton, which made industrial flooring for factories (not a line of country which he particularly enjoyed).

He married the daughter of Sir Norman Brookes, who in 1907 had become the first Australian, indeed the first overseas player, to win the Wimbledon Singles title. In 1950, this time as an adult, Langley went back to Deal and won the English Amateur Championship, beating Ian Patey of Hayling Island in the final.

He played twice more in the Walker Cup, in 1951 and 1953, his best effort coming in the foursomes at Birkdale in 1951 when he and Cecil Ewing halved with Charlie Coe and James McHale Jr, two great American amateurs. Langley won the *Golf Illustrated* Gold Vase in 1952 and 1953, and became chairman of the Walker Cup selectors from 1967 to 1969 before seeking golfing anonymity.

His wife Hersey survives him.



John Langley with his wife at the Walker Cup match in May 1967 at Royal St George's, Sandwich

Appointments

The Rev Philip Arnold, previously working in the diocese of Exeter: to be Assistant Curate, Rawmarsh (Parkgate, Rotherham) (Sheffield). The Rev Anthony Barlett, Priest-in-charge, Hendon, St Ignace's: to be Vicar of that benefice (Durham). The Rev Nigel Beer, Curate, Rastick St Matthew (Wakefield): to be Curate, Bilton (Ripon). The Rev Lawrence Bond, Assistant Curate, Saffron Walden Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar, Saffron Walden Team Ministry (Chelmsford). The Rev Tony Burdon, Vicar, St John the Evangelist and St Stephen, Reading: to be Associate Priest, California St Mary and St John, and Adviser for Prayer and Spirituality in the Berkshire Archdiocese (Oxford). The Rev Jill Cheverton, Curate, Bilton: to be Vicar, Burnstall (St Stephen and St Agnes, Leeds (Ripon)). The Rev Richard Curtis, Curate, Knighton St Mary: to be Curate, St Philip, Leicester (Leicester). The Rev Peter Davey, Assistant

Curate, Cheadle w Freehay: to be Priest-in-charge, Waterfall, Cullum, Cauldon and Grindon, and Priest-in-charge, Blive Ray (Leichfield). The Rev Susan Edwards, Assistant Curate, Borehamwood: District of St Michael and All Angels: to be Vicar, Arlesey w Astwick (St Albans). The Rev Jim Gosling, NSM, Victoria Dock, St Luke (Chelmsford): to be Honorary Curate, Northbourne and Great Mongeham group of parishes (Canterbury). The Rev Simon Howard, Curate, St Martin and St Thomas, Cambridge (Ely): to be Priest-in-charge, Lower Earley, Trinity Church LEP (Oxford). The Rev Graham Johnson, Team Vicar, Wolstanton Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Osley (Leichfield). The Rev Richard Kirkman, Vicar, Thirsk Team Ministry: to be Rector, Ewrick and Stillingfleet w Naburn (York).

The Rev Richard Knowling, Vicar, St John, Palmers Green: to be also Dean of Enfield (London). The Rev David Lloyd, permission to officiate (St Albans): to be Vicar, Bampton w Clanchfield (Oxford). The Rev Karen MacKinnon, Curate, St Mary Magdalene w St Francis, Leicestershire: to be Priest-in-charge of that parish (Bristol). The Rev Michael Marshall, Vicar, St Alban, Stratford Park: to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Blackheath (Southwark). The Rev Margaret Morris, Assistant Curate (NSM), Quorn: to be Assistant Curate, NSM, Loughborough All Saints and Holy Trinity, and to continue as Bishop's Chaplain for People Affected by HIV/AIDS (Leicester). The Rev Derek Newton, Assistant Curate (NSM), Hughdown-le-Spring: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Seaham w Seaham Harbour, ministering at All Saints, Deneside (Durham). The Rev Philip North, Assistant

Curate, Sunderland St Mary and St Peter in the Annunciation group ministry: to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Hartlepool (Durham). The Rev Mark Pudge, Assistant Curate, St Augustine, Thorpe Bay: to be Curate-in-charge and Team Vicar designate, St Andrew, Wickford and Runwell Team Ministry (Chelmsford). The Rev Stephen Ridley, Chaplain of Burkenhead School, Merseyside (Chester): to be Chaplain of Barnard Castle School (Durham). The Rev John Sharpe, Team Vicar, St Martin, Walsall (Leichfield): to be Rector, Glenfield (Leicester). The Rev Tony Sharpe, Assistant Curate (NSM), St James the Great, Leigh-on-Sea: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Augustine, Thorpe Bay (Chelmsford). The Rev Jim Siller, Vicar, Potternorton: to be also Diocesan Racial Justice Officer (Ripon). The Rev David Stevenson, Assistant Curate, Nottingham St Saviour (Southwell): to be Priest-in-charge, Darlston All Saints, and Industrial Missioner, Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (Leichfield).

BRITAIN'S LITTLE FAMINE GUESTS. HAPPY HOMES FOR STARVING ENEMIES.

(From Our Correspondent.)
Richborough, May 19.
From the maze of war wreckage that is gradually being dispersed from Richborough there is emerging a centre that is shortly to be used for the reception of the children of countries that have felt the pinch of war far more than those of the Allies. Next week will arrive the first batch of 500 children from what were enemy lands. They are to be, in the place, the guests at Richborough of the Famine Area Children's Hospitality Committee, a charitable organisation supported chiefly by voluntary effort and backed up by the British Government, with the object of arranging hospitalities for such children. At the head of affairs in London is Commander L. Cather, R.N., who has all the information necessary for placing 1,500 children in English homes, where they are to remain for a year as the guests of private people. Most of the children, who are largely of the better class, are coming from Austria at present, but there may be arrivals later from Germany, and perhaps some Belgian children will be included. Mr.

ON THIS DAY
May 20, 1920

At the end of the First World War those countries which had been defeated had to face shortages of every description: there were stories of children wrapped in paper and dying of starvation.

H. Jones, superintendent of the Hospitality Committee, discussed with me the objections that may be made to England receiving these famine-stricken children. "It may be asked," he said, "why we should do this for the children of our former enemies. The answer is that none of our own children has suffered anything like as much. When we read of children being wrapped in paper because clothing is so scarce, and of children dying of starvation, we know how much worse it has been for them than it has been for our English children." Mr. Jones agrees with the principle of extending hospitality to these children from the Continent. We cannot, he argued, allow the

children even of our enemies, to become a rickety, weakly race by slow starvation. They will learn, moreover, something of the British character, and this should do good in creating a proper feeling between the nations.

A NIGHT IN CHINATOWN
At the Guildhall yesterday, Frank William Howroyd and William Alfred Charles Dickinson, two youths, were charged with being concerned in stealing raw opium and morphine to the value of £39 from the warehouse of Messrs. Willows, Francis, Butler, and Thompson, wholesale druggists, of Aldersgate-street. A Chinaman named Wong Fat, who lives at Pennyfields, Poplar, was charged with receiving the stolen drugs, and with being in possession of loaded firearms. Dickinson said that after he and Howroyd left Aldersgate-street they went to Pennyfields, where a sailor introduced them to Wong Fat. They showed him the raw opium and he said "Follow me." He took them through side streets, and after having left the opium at a house, he took them to a Chinese restaurant, where he gave them each £5. He then took them to a place to sleep. Next morning he gave them another £1 each, and told them to meet him at Hyde Park on the following Sunday. They kept the appointment, and he handed over another £12. The Alderman sentenced Wong Fat to two months' imprisonment, with hard labour, and said there would be a recommendation for deportation. The other prisoners were remanded.

NEWS

Blair plans select inner Cabinet

■ Tony Blair is likely to create a small inner Cabinet to co-ordinate and direct strategy if Labour wins the general election. His advisers believe the central machinery of government needs to be strengthened to ensure no loss of momentum and that focus is kept on the main objectives. The group would include Mr Blair, John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, the party leadership's present "big four". Page 1

Gambaccini sent down by Radio 3

■ Paul Gambaccini, the former Radio 1 disc jockey described as the "most hated man on radio" when he took over as presenter of Radio 3's *Morning Collection*, is leaving the show. The "downmarket" American, 47, blamed other commitments. The announcement, eight months after the programme's launch, will be viewed as a victory for traditionalists. Page 1

Karadzic at helm

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, was believed to be in full control of the Bosnian Serb republic despite his having nominally handed over some responsibilities. Page 6

Housewives' choice?

A woman jockey has been booked to ride in the Derby next month for the first time in the race's 216-year history. Page 1

'False patriots'

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, seeks to wrest the patriotism vote from the Conservatives tonight by claiming the party has abused and debased patriotism. Page 2

Couple killed

A British woman and her French husband, who were carrying £70,000 in cash, have been found murdered in their car which was at the bottom of a canal in eastern France. Page 3

Different goal

Organised groups of rival supporters with links to neo-fascist parties are planning violent clashes to disrupt next month's European football championship. Page 4

Dream village

After four years and £42 million, renovation of Glympton House and 21 adjoining properties is near completion, fulfilling a prince's dream. Page 5

Plainly a hoax of the cultural kind

■ A New York University physicist appalled by trendy left-wing scholarship has hoaxed the academic journal that helped to invent the growing field of cultural studies into publishing a spoof entitled *Transgressing the Boundaries: Towards a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity* and packed with pseudo-intellectual gobbledegook. Page 11

Blowing whistle

Britain's biggest teaching union says it will halt sports matches unless teachers get "cast-iron" guarantees that they are fully insured when supervising games. Page 6

Gulf War tests

A million-dollar study to determine if Gulf War syndrome has been undertaken in Britain, at the Pentagon's expense. Page 7

Killing country

Hours after a close friend became the latest of hundreds of contract killings, Cambodian Opposition politician Sam Rainsy accused the country's de facto Communist leader of being a tyrant heading a terrorist state. Page 8

Tibetan defiance

Monks at Tibet's main monasteries, infuriated by a ban on pictures of the Dalai Lama, are openly defying China. Page 9

Smugglers out

Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's new Chief Minister has promised, in an interview with *The Times*, to reform the Rock's "smugglers' cove" image. Page 10

Russian role

Israel's next Prime Minister may well be decided by more than 600,000 Russian immigrants — many of whom will be voting for Nathan Sharan's new party. Page 11



Children of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal St James's Palace, in their distinctive Tudor livery, and members of the Choir of Hampton Court Palace prepare for Evensong at Hampton Court Palace yesterday. The choir work together only twice each year.

BUSINESS

Prudence rules: Shareholders in the Prudential Corporation are set to challenge the company's new executive bonus scheme that pays out even if the company is an underperformer within the top 100 quoted companies. Page 40

Stores set: Railtrack provisionally priced its shares at 580p for the public and 590p for institutional investors, raising £1.9 billion for the Government. Page 40

Taking account: A report into the latest of hundreds of contract killings, Cambodian Opposition politician Sam Rainsy accused the country's de facto Communist leader of being a tyrant heading a terrorist state. Page 8

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ARTS

Spotlight on Degas: For guest curator Richard Kendall, the Degas show at the National Gallery is "a dream exhibition" focusing on a little-known period of the artist's life, his later years. Page 12

Familiar sounds: Jacques Lusseyer brought his souped-up Bach to the Festival Hall in a concert that handed out the same old lullabies. Page 12

Good start: The new Glyndebourne season opened with Peter Sellars's revisionist staging of Handel's oratorio *Theodora* and Rodney Milnes, for one, was happy to be provoked. Page 13

Young stars

The National Opera Studio's annual gala showed off the cream of today's postgraduate singers. Page 13

MIND AND MATTER

Superbugs: Plagues have been about as long as mankind and play a vital part in shaping our world. Anjana Ahuja reports. Page 14

Baffling illness: "The time has surely come to abandon the diagnosis of schizophrenia," Richard Bentall writes. Page 14

FEATURES

Difficult battle: Women have obviously not been blind to the Princess of Wales's ways. But being, on the whole, more understanding and forgiving than men, are they more likely to rally round? Page 15

Wearing well: Shamed by the billionaire poise of Sir James Goldsmith, Euro-sceptics are hurling our striped ties and viscose shirts. Page 15

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Winners and losers at Cannes: Geoff Brown at the biggest film festival of all

■ LAW
Solicitors are hoping that an advertising campaign will improve their image.

TONY WHITE

TV LIST

Preview: Greg Dyke finds would-be Olga Korbut. *Fair Game: Hungry For Success* (Channel 4, 8pm). Review: Lynne Truss on *Invisible Friend*. Page 39

Cloud over Euro 96

The clubs, the law and the police can prove the football disease is close to being cured. Or they will point the way to more drastic restrictions on a sport that so persistently attracts so much repulsive behaviour. Page 17

Red Army mire

If a line is to be drawn under the spy affair, British officers could work closely with Russia to make its army the kind of professional force that would be less of a threat to its people, its Government and its neighbours. Page 17

The adventurous eye

Anybody wanting to watch the mind of Degas at work, as well as see its immortal works, should hurry to the National. Page 17

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

BSE is not what we ought to be most worried about — Alzheimer's, drug-resistant hospital germs, drug-resistant tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS itself all represent greater threats. Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

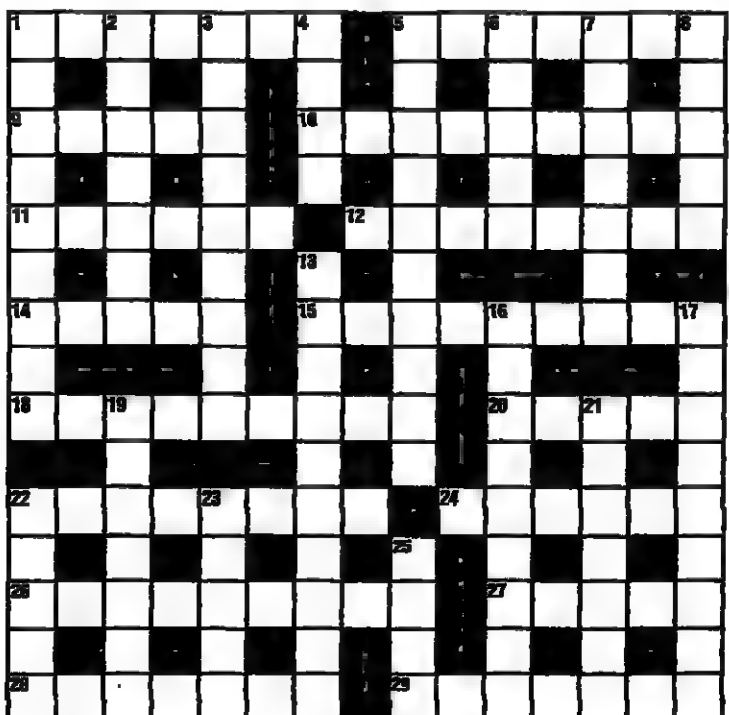
If Tony Blair enters Downing Street, he will quickly learn the truth of Lord Lawson's view that "Prime Ministers do not feel themselves nearly as powerful as they are widely made out to be and, in my experience, would be to be". Page 18

Malcolm MacEwen, writer and countryside campaigner; Professor Geoffrey Davies, Director of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, Oxford, 1948-85. Page 19

Strategy on fighting crime: university "Ivy League". Page 19

The popularity of the Dalai Lama is on the rise. Huge crowds turned out for him in Palermo... not only because he is supported by film stars like Richard Gere but because of the simplicity and directness of his message. — *La Repubblica*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,172



ACROSS

- Small terrier, sort of cross (7).
- Walker lacking footwear, in the main (7).
- Direction abandoned by mature pop musicians (5).
- Gallio's bird soon goes west for a change (4,3).
- Pope's opening lines about city's religious house (6).
- Unpaid, and not at home in ancient surroundings (8).
- A huge quantity that may have to be lacked on (5).
- Hint given in a poem's the exact opposite (9).
- Decorate clothing of bride more elaborately (9).
- Bishop breaking up dance is dissenter (5).
- Close friend docked to guard old Scottish vessel (8).
- They are known by experts as specimens of *Allium cepa* (6).

DOWN

- Tool stealer, they say, who goes outside to scoff? (9).
- Girl succeeding in a republic (5).
- Fashion, finally, makes us very angry (7).
- Lad eating solitary humbug (7).
- It's held to amplify information given to auditors (9).
- A long time in business, like the principal shareholder? (7).
- For each article, put in odd notes in unnatural language (9).
- Language used by Alexander Selkirk (4).
- Head supporting right to secure half-day (10).
- Dismissive command to boxer still in hiding? (5).
- Change of heart for one spotted making tight garment (7).
- Piping covered with grasses (5).
- Berthed, having crossed part of river like a lake (4,6).
- Note name held by variety of Alpine plant (9).
- Retailer in northern town knowing about publicity (9).
- Club employee's dishonoured cheque (7).
- Increase one dimension of passage through mountain (7).
- Reportedly captures a small wood (5).
- Longing for description of Orsino's musicians' fall (5).
- Town set-up providing food (4).

ABERLOUR
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,171 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 40

FORECAST

For the United Kingdom by region forecast, 24 hours a day, 0800-0900 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
London & SE	702
East of London	703
South East	704
West of London	705
West Midlands	706
North Midlands	707
North East	708
Yorkshire & Lancashire	709
North West	710
West of Scotland	711
North of Scotland	712
West of Ireland	713
North of Ireland	714
West of Europe	715
North of Europe	716
West of Africa	717
North of Africa	718
West of Asia	719
North of Asia	720
West of Australia	721
North of Australia	722
West of South America	723
North of South America	724
West of North America	725
North of North America	726
West of Antarctica	727
North of Antarctica	728

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area	Forecast
Area within M25	729
South of M25	730
North of M25	731
West of M25	732
East of M25	733
South of M25	734
North of M25	735
West of M25	736
East of M25	737
South of M25	738
North of M25	739
West of M25	740
East of M25	741
South of M25	742
North of M25	743
West of M25	744
East of M25	745
South of M25	746
North of M25	747
West of M25	748
East of M25	749
South of M25	750
North of M25	751
West of M25	752
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Area	Forecast
Area within M25	729
South of M25	730
North of M25	731
West of M25	732
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Poor cornering takes edge off race drama

Yesterday may have been a bad day for Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher but, for a certain Monaco television director, it was an unmitigated professional disaster. If he or she never works again... well, an army of British Formula One enthusiasts will be delighted.

The coverage of the action-packed first lap from Monte Carlo was dreadful. Missing incidents later in the race is understandable — the cars are spread out over the entire track and not even the best director in the world can hope to have them all in shot at the vital moment. But missing the first corner...? Unbelievable.

All weekend, the experts had been trotting out the same message: you cannot pass at Monte Carlo, so getting to the

first corner in the lead is vital. The excellent John Watson had said it about a dozen times during Eurosport's coverage of the qualifying session on Saturday. On the BBC, the eccentric Murray Walker conceded it was even a bit of a cliché. Cliché or not, come the big moment on Sunday, when the red lights went out, we all sat back to enjoy the race to the first corner. Nothing.

Out went the lights. Hill and Schumacher screamed out of the bottom of our screens and... and... the camera stared back down the start grid, somehow convinced that checking the back-markers had all got away would make better television than the tedious stuff going on at the front. Quite right too — who wants to see Hill burning up the reigning world champion?



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

or, indeed, said world champion on tangling terminally with the crash barrier; or even any of the other events that, in less than a minute, left the world's best-known street looking more like a car park?

To be fair, the local director had given due warning that he was not up to the job on Saturday, when the lap that appeared to propel Hill to pole position was studiously ignored by the cameras. While the current world championship leader applied pedal to

metal, the cameras lingered lovingly on Jacques Villeneuve, who was trundling around about twelfth. Villeneuve, as Watson would later remind us, used to live in Monte Carlo.

This is the BBC's final season of Formula One, at least for the next three years, so I thought it might be prudent to prepare for the brave new commercial future by spending the weekend not with Walker and the team, but with Eurosport, the pan-Euro-

pean satellite channel that not only covered the race and qualifying session (using the same pictures as the BBC) but also showed the early-morning warm-up and, a little later, the hugely-exciting practice session in the rain.

Eurosport has already faced the challenge that will confront ITV next year — how to make money from a continuous, high-speed sporting event lasting two hours. ITV says it is still considering the form and frequency of its commercial breaks, but let us hope it comes up with something better than its would-be rival. Presumably fed up with trying to second-guess when might be a good moment for a few ads, the satellite channel plunks its commercial breaks every 15 minutes.

Instead of a wham-bam, buy-this-buy-that and now back to the racing approach that might (I say might) earn the gratitude of understanding viewers, we get two or three minutes of normal, glossy television advertising that does all the good work so enthusiastically done by Watson in the commentary box. And then there are the interminable plugs for sponsors. "And now back to Formula One..." says someone with all the urgency of a tortoise on valium: "...with Ford" or "with Goodyear." It was midway through "back to Formula One..." with Coca-Cola... always for the fans... that Hill's engine exploded. By the time the pictures were restored, Hill was just trundling to a stop. If this is the future, then we better get used to missing a lot more than the first corner.

Simms celebrates as Blue Sox secure their first Super League victory

Halifax end bleak run after Leeds surrender

Leeds 18
Halifax Blue Sox 32

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HALIFAX Blue Sox finally achieved their first victory in the Super League yesterday after a series of encouraging performances that had ended in defeat. Like Leeds, their victims, it had been thought that Halifax would be contenders for rugby league's new honours, but while they took the plaudits of their followers at the finish, Leeds trooped off to jeers after their sixth and most dispiriting reverse.

Four days previously, Steve Simms, the coach, had received the dreaded vote of confidence from the Halifax board. He can rest a little more easily after his side broke its duck so emphatically, but the same cannot be said

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of Dean Bell, his Leeds counterpart. "I'm not going to give up, but it's so depressing," Bell said. "They showed no desire, no anything."

Leeds remain a place above Halifax in the lower reaches of the Super League, but games away to Bradford and at home in Wigan in the next 12 days must fill Bell with horror after this dismal showing.

Though Leeds sides of the recent past have gone through patchy spells, a recovery of the sort that could ultimately be required to stave off relegation appears in the way beyond a team so pitifully low on confidence and starting to lose a grip on even the basics of the game.

Opportunities for tries were squandered by crumb handling errors, while the support of team-mates appeared an alien concept. Leeds, who had recovered from 27-0 down to win the corresponding fixture last season, had no answer once Halifax edged ahead late in the first half.

From 12-8 in arrears, and despite suffering a few prob-

lems of their own, Halifax, showing the necessary desire, rattled up 24 points without reply, admittedly against a compliant defence.

Craig Dean, in the week of his call to Wales's European championship squad, contributed two tries in Halifax's second win at Headingley in ten visits. His organisation at scrum half contrasted with the way that Dean Clark, opposite him, suffered on his home debut because of the lethargy of those around him. It was hardly surprising that Clark was led off dazed towards the end.

The encouragement Leeds received at the start of a try by Anthony Gibbons, was undone by indiscipline in various forms. Iro's only connection in the game was his blow to Hallas's solar plexus, which gave Schuster the first of his six goals.

Whenever Halifax launched the high ball, Leeds fled or fumbled. Gibbons was once guilty of the latter, under Amoney's steely boot, and although Hassan and Cummings had Bentley covered, the wing was able to pop the ball out to the unmarked Dean.

Holroyd's prancing run restored Leeds' lead only briefly. This time, Hassan, under pressure, dropped. Dean's crossfield kick and Umaga nipped in. Schuster added a further penalty before Leeds surrendered three tries in eight minutes early in the second period. Dean was put in by Perrett, Rowley lunged over from acting half back, and Bentley emerged on the wing for the next try.

Halifax then withstood the home side's hapless attacking efforts. A number of home supporters had gone home by the time that Shaw grabbed a consolation touchdown.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Schuster, Dean, Umaga, Bentley, Perrett. Goals: Schuster. Penalties: Schuster. HALIFAX BLUE SOX: Tries: Dean, Clark, Hassan, Umaga. Goals: Schuster. Penalties: Schuster.

Referee: J. Morris.



Ekoku, of Halifax Blue Sox, is brought to ground by the attentions of three Leeds rivals yesterday

Vibrant Wigan drive home message

Workington Town 16
Wigan 64

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN return to extracurricular rugby union activities this week after a brief spell at more prosaic duties. In five days, they have put a total of 114 points past Workington Town and Halifax Blue Sox, the bottom clubs in the rugby league Super League.

Critics felt that Wigan had bitten off more than they could chew, but they have slogged themselves on union and league opposition. However, giving a good account of themselves and their code is what they must aim for in the return cross-code meeting. If Bath needed reminding that fast and loose is the short route to embarrassment at Twickenham on Saturday,

Wigan's 11 tries at Derwent Park reinforced the message that they will be allowed possession at Bath's peril.

What, though, would the 15-man code gain from Bath making life so claustrophobic in rucks, mauls and the set piece that it blots out players of extravagant skills, speed and finesse, which league actively encourages and union apparently neglects?

Far from taking their minds off the job, Wigan have risen to the different challenges better than the one St Helens faced: their two-point lead of the Super League involved improbable comebacks to beat London and Warrington last week while Wigan have piled up a superior 93-points differential.

Phil Larder's selection of Bobbie Goulding, of St Helens, ahead of Shaun Edwards for the European champion-

ship next month, was an appropriate one on form until a week ago. Since then, the England coach has been given a couple of telling nudges by the Wigan scrum half, who was involved in all but one of the tries at Workington on Saturday night.



Edwards: pivotal role

As Wigan were misshapen by injuries and had three players out of position, the Workington tries by Smith, Holgate and Allen were grape-shot in answer to cannonfire. Tuigamala might have had a third try with better foot control. Edwards had shadowed Robinson for his one score. Robinson owed his two tries to Edwards's kicks and Farrell a brace to his captain's passes.

Orrell provide the opposition in training for union today and Thursday.

SCORERS: Workington: Tries: Smith, Holgate, Allen, Gough, Manswood. Wigan: Tries: Farrell (2), Robinson (2), Tuigamala (2), Craig, Hall, Edwards, Ollah, Murdoch. Goals: Farrell (2), Paul, Tuigamala. WORKINGTON TOWN: L. Campbell, M. Wallace, J. Allen, D. Fraser, L. Smith, W. Kitchin, D. Manswood, C. Armstrong, M. Boshman, R. Phillips, J. Palmer, S. Holgate, N. Varn, S. Subbastei, P. Burns, P. Pennell, L. Ripio, D. Carter. WIGAN: A. Radcliffe, R. Smyth, V. Tuigamala, A. Craig, M. Ollah, J. Robinson, S. Edwards, M. Cassidy, M. Hall, T. O'Connor, S. Houghton, A. Farrell, H. Paul, S. Subbastei, N. Barnes, A. Johnson, S. Taitupu, C. Murdoch, R. Smith.

Pugh warns England to join other unions

VERNON PUGH, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, has warned England, the five nations' champions, that the tournament next season will proceed without them unless they sign a television deal granting equal shares to all participants. "If England decide not to participate in the five nations' TV agreement, we will run a championship without them next season," he said.

England officials believe they deserve the greater share of the proceeds from any television contract and intend to negotiate alone. Pugh was hopeful that a compromise can be reached: "Nobody wants to lose the traditional five nations. It is a cornerstone in the fluctuating state of rugby. We are desperate to preserve it and I am still confident that we will have our normal five nations next season and thereafter."

Thorburn steps aside

SNOOKER: Cliff Thorburn, the only overseas winner of the Embassy world championship, in 1980, has decided not to enter any of the ten world-ranking tournaments scheduled for 1996-97 after falling from 41st to 91st in the standings last season. In nine qualifying matches for various events last season, the 48-year-old Canadian failed to record a single victory. Unlike Terry Griffiths, the 1979 world champion, who announced his retirement last week, Thorburn has not discounted the possibility of a return, but only if the qualifying system is altered. Thorburn will represent Canada at the World Cup in Bangkok in October.

Muster's feat of clay

TENNIS: Thomas Muster, right, the top seed, won the Italian Open men's singles title for the second consecutive year yesterday when he beat Richard Krajicek, the unseeded Dutchman, 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in Rome. The Austrian's title took his record on clay since the beginning of 1995 to 94 wins and three defeats and made him the first man in the open era to win the Italian Open title three times.



Burt breaks British duck

MOTOR SPORT: Kelvin Burt became the first Briton to secure a victory in the Auto Trader RAC touring car championship this season when he won round seven at Silverstone yesterday. His win for Volvo also interrupted the domination of the event this year by the four-wheel drive cars, although Frank Biela, the championship leader, responded by winning round eight for Audi to extend his lead to 36 points.

Fahey fights back

REAL TENNIS: Robert Fahey, from Tasmania, the world champion, made a spectacular comeback against the British No 1, Julian Snow, to reach the final of the Laurent-Perrier Masters championship at the Queen's Club, London. Fahey, who recovered to win 1-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1, will meet his fellow Australian, Wayne Davis, the former world champion, who defeated Chris Bray, from Petworth, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 in the other semi-final.

Kenyan finishes in style

ATHLETICS: William Musyoki, of Kenya, won the Prague international marathon yesterday, beating Tena Negere, of Ethiopia, by six seconds. Kunderas Ceslovas, of Lithuania, finished third. Musyoki completed the race in 2hr 12min 25sec, with Ceslovas crossing the line nearly 2½ minutes behind the winner. "It was a good race — and the weather was fine," Musyoki said. Yelena Yefimovskaya, of Belorussia, won the women's event in 2hr 37min 33sec.

Lomu secures final say

RUGBY UNION: Jonah Lomu, right, the New Zealand wing, ran in two of eight tries as Auckland overwhelmed Northern Transvaal, of South Africa, 49-11 in their Super 12 semi-final yesterday. The New Zealand side secured a home final against Natal, who were 43-25 winners over Queensland. Sean Fitzpatrick, the Auckland captain, said: "It was like a Test match."



Master in charge

RIFLE SHOOTING: Chief Petty Officer Nigel Ball, the Royal Navy target rifle champion, who is to become shooting master at Gresham's School, Norfolk, when he retires from the Navy later in the year, won all the main events at the school's open meeting at Bisleigh on Saturday. Including the grand aggregate competition, in which he scored 245 points out of 250.

Britons grasp judo medals

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE Great Britain judo team yesterday began a triumphant march towards Atlanta by collecting seven medals at the European championships in The Hague.

Danny Kingston, a lightweight, and Sharon Rendle, a featherweight, both took gold medals as Britain provided ample evidence that they will continue their remarkable success at the Olympics over the past 24 years. Kingston, from the Budekwal in London, fought with penetrative skill and maintained a mature poise in one of the most competitive of all categories.

In the semi-finals, he won a closely-contested bout with Igor Tchintchichvili, of the Ukraine, and then, in the final, countered Thomas Schleicher, of Austria, with a display of great neatness.

Rendle, from Grimsby, still craves an Olympic gold medal. In 1988, she finished first in Seoul when women's judo was included as a demonstration sport. In Barcelona, four years

later, she was third. Yesterday, at the age of 29, she showed all of her familiar gritty determination to bring home her first European title for six years.

In the semi-finals, she beat Almudena Munoz, the 1992 Olympic champion, on a decision, and then, in the final, she wheeled Alessandra Giungi, of Italy, the defending champion, to the mat with a nimble hand throw.



Rendle: determined

Britain took two silver medals in the men's classes, through Nigel Donohue, a bantamweight, and Julian Davies, a featherweight.

The final in the bantamweight division was a repeat of the championships last year in Birmingham. On that occasion, the Briton had upended Georgi Vazagachvili. Yesterday, however, the Georgian got the decision in a defensive bout between two experienced fighters.

Davies, from Camberley, lost to another Georgian, Georgi Revazievili, who clinched the bout with a hand throw.

The three bronze medals were all won on Saturday, through Ryan Birch, a middleweight, Diane Bell, a lightweight, and Michelle Rogers, a heavyweight.

On this form, Britain can certainly expect to be prominent in Atlanta.

Indrek Pertelson, of Austria, won the final of the men's open class, defeating Selim Tatargulu, of Turkey.

Monarchs' victory keeps hopes alive

BY RICHARD WETHERELL

AN IMPRESSIVE first half by the London Monarchs that included three touchdowns, five sacks, two interceptions and a fumble recovery swept them to a 27-7 victory over the Frankfurt Galaxy yesterday and kept alive their slim hopes of advancing to the World Bowl.

They still have to win all their remaining games and hope for help elsewhere in the World League of American Football, but if they continue in the same manner, even though they have a 2-4 record, that is not a forlorn hope.

With Tony Vinson rushing for 137 yards, a Monarchs record, and two touchdowns the 10,764 crowd saw only the second win at White Hart Lane in eight games. Last week, when the Galaxy were losing their first game, the Monarchs rushed for only 20 yards in their loss to the Amsterdam Admirals.

With Vinson gaining yards

at will, the passing game was opened up. Willie Hinchcliff caught a 29-yard touchdown reception to open the scoring and Lizzy Collins made it 14-0 with a 28-yard touchdown reception with five minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Vinson then scored his first touchdown with a superb 45-yard run.

The second half was less thrilling, and though Steve Pelluer's one-yard run with nine minutes to go made things tense, Vinson wrapped it up with a three-yard touchdown in the final minute.

The Scottish Claymores beat the Rhein Fire 24-19 at Murrayfield, with Siran Stacey scoring two touchdowns, but Gavin Hastings missed his first extra point at the thirteenth attempt. After losing all five home games last year the Claymores have won all three this season and lead the league with a record of 5-1.

Parke back to hold court

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN CAIRO

A FLOODLIT all-transparent Perspex squash court erected on a specially prepared arena in the shadow of the desert pyramids of Giza provided the surreal setting for one of the more heart-warming stories of triumph over adversity in sport.

As dusk fell on the outskirts of Cairo on Saturday, under the ageless gaze of the Sphinx, Simon Parke set about preventing Derek Ryan, of Ireland, from becoming the first man to win a professional squash match on these sands.

Parke, who won the world team championship with England last year, remains stubble-headed from three months of chemotherapy for testicular cancer. His return to competition here is a testament to his courage and determination and one suspects that even his opponent in the second round of the Al Aghram International tournament will have shared the general pleasure of the touring players in seeing one of their best rediscover his skill and confidence.

"I forgot where I was as the game progressed," Parke, who beat Ryan 17-15, 15-11, 15-7, said. "I found my confidence flowing back and, although I was dreading Derek dragging me into a fourth game, I felt — fitness apart — pretty much like my old self again."

Parke's win was quickly followed by a victory for Jansher Khan, the No 1 seed from Pakistan, who defeated Craig Rowland, of Australia, 15-13, 15-3, 12-15, 15-11. Jansher is Parke's opponent in the quarter-finals tonight and can be relied on to provide a thorough examination of the Yorkshireman's present level of fitness.

In company with other players who survived the first round in the national squash stadium in Cairo, Parke had travelled a dozen miles into the desert to be greeted by an astonishing sight. Soldiers mounted on camels and tribesmen on dancing horses escorted them into the futuristic arena that the Egyptians had provided for their games,

spending three months on excavation and construction. The organisers, headed by the Al Aghram publishing house, are thought to have invested more than \$1 million (about £660,000) in the project.

"I thought we had hit the peak when we put on the Tournament of Champions in Grand Central Station," John Nimick, the chief executive of the Professional Squash Association, said, "but this setting is just awesome."

Mark Chaloner, the young Lincoln player who took the Sports Writers' International Newcomer-of-the-Year award in December but was edged out of the first round here by the experienced Danny Meddings, of Surrey, passed the camels and the horsemen but stopped short at the arena entrance starting up at the great granite and limestone tomb illuminated behind the court and confided: "I so wanted to play on this court."

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سكوا في الجيزة

Lewis fortunate to figure in England's new look

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN THE search for a better tomorrow, the England cricket selectors have raided the files of yesterday. Balancing the vibrant thinking behind the inclusion of the uncapped Alistair Brown, Ronnie Irani and Mark Ealham for the Texaco Trophy series against India this week is the contentious retrieval of two wasted talents whose time appeared to have passed.

Matthew Maynard has won back an England place that he feared he had lost for good after a wretched tour of the Caribbean two years ago. Given the stated aims of the selectors to place a side specific to one-day demands, there can be no quibble with this, for Maynard, 30, is a gifted stroke-maker at the peak of his powers. The recall of Chris Lewis must be seen in a different light.

Lewis has the ability to make one marvel but the

attitude to make one wonder — to wonder, particularly, over the wisdom of hurrying him back into the national side, effectively pandering to his ego, when he missed all of last season and has turned in a mere handful of encouraging performances for his new county.

Surrey is a third home for Lewis. His previous clubs, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, both wearied of his erratic output and found his temperament impetuous. The Oval, and the club's new coach, Dave Gilbert, may be the making of him, the place where he finally fulfils himself. He is making the right noises, showing the right signs. But it is too soon to be confident and his hasty resurrection is, in my view, too swift a reward for one who has exhausted the patience of so many, for so long.

The problems of the selectors here must be acknowledged. Lewis is better equipped than most to turn a

SQUAD

M A Atherton (Lancashire, captain)
A D Brown (Surrey)
G A Hick (Worcestershire)
G P Thorpe (Surrey)
M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)
A J Stewart (Surrey)
C C Lewis (Surrey)
R G Irani (Essex)
D G Cork (Derbyshire)
N M K Smith (Warwickshire)
P J Martin (Lancashire)
D Gough (Yorkshire)
M A Ealham (Kent)

Texaco Trophy series (v India): May 23, first one-day international, The Oval; May 25, second one-day international, Headingley; May 26, third one-day international, Old Trafford



Brown: self-confident



Irani: Test potential



Ealham: one-day future

one-day game and, right now, he is bowling fast and well, an attractive option for the job at hand within a thin field of seam bowlers. He may illuminate the three-game tournament this week, but it does not alter the fact that he is fortunate to have regained official support so soon.

Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, unwittingly endorsed this when he

reflected that Lewis played in the first one-day international side he chose, two years ago. "I've hardly seen him since," he added. "Neither has anyone else and, perhaps, we should have seen a little more of him before his admirable ambitions to restore his England status were satisfied."

Whatever one makes of this calculated gamble with a difficult individual, the balance of

the 13-man party is to be heartily applauded. The new selection panel has responded to the general clamour for a fresh start, but done it sensitively, retaining sufficient experience alongside the transfusion of fresh blood.

Eight members of the derided World Cup squad — exactly half — have been retained, including Alec Stewart, mightily relieved at the opportunity

to salvage an England career dangerously damaged during the winter. Stewart will keep wicket but bat in the middle order, probably as low as No 6, and his previous role as Michael Atherton's opening partner goes, with his full blessing, to his Surrey colleague, Brown.

This will be something to savour, especially at the Oval on Thursday when Brown

struts out (he does strut, which is part of the effectiveness of his game) before his home crowd. He is unlikely to be cowed by it, such is his native self-confidence, and he has it in him to give England the type of explosive starts that they never achieved in the World Cup. The best of this is that Brown has been picked while in wonderful form, which sounds elementary but has not always occurred with new batsmen in the past.

Neil Smith, experimentally used in the pinch-hitting role early in the World Cup, is chosen again and although his primary role is as the single spin bowler, he may also be promoted to No 3 batsman, maintaining the quest for early momentum. If Brown departs early, Hick and Thorpe were automatic selections in the middle order and Maynard will probably bat at No 5.

Discussion of the all-rounders occupied half the selection meeting. Illingworth was not keen to jettison Craig White

and a case was also made for Adam Holoake, but Irani, 24, and Ealham, 26, fully deserve their chance.

Irani, once of Lancashire, has been a fine acquisition for Essex and his batting, powerful and positive, continues to improve. Ealham, the son of the former Kent captain, Alan, is the prime example of an all-rounder ideal for one-day cricket but unlikely to play at Test level — something that ought not to be said of Irani.

Among those omitted are Neil Fairbrother, Robin Smith, Richard Illingworth, Phil DeFreitas and Dermot Reeve. All were once guaranteed one-day inclusion but, now, only Reeve can be thought unfortunate. The first selection of summer is a good one, with a better than reasonable chance of retrieving a degree of public faith with victory.

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Scores soar as European golf's big names are blown off course

Ames walks tall in Oxfordshire storm

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE could be few more daunting holes than the 18th at The Oxfordshire on which to make par to win a tournament. Stephen Ames, the Trinidad-born professional, approached it last night knowing that he had to take no more than four strokes up the 445-yard hole to win the £116,000 first prize on offer in the Benson and Hedges International Open.

A par would avoid a play-off with Jon Robson, who had already finished with a 73 for a total of 284, four under par. Robson had played beautifully all week and just when it was thought that a player of his inexperience would crumble, he played eight of the last nine holes resolutely in pars. His only mistake, the one that would give Ames his chance of victory, came on the last hole, which he bogeyed. Robson, whose previous best per-

formance was to tie for fourth in last year's Portuguese Open, was one of the surprises of a week when the best players in Europe were supposed to reassess themselves.

Although Colin Montgomerie was nine under par and held a three-stroke lead over Ian Woosnam after 54 holes, and Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer were lurking ominously, none could sustain a challenge on the windswept final day, a day when the lowest score was 72, level par.

Langer had a 79, Woosnam an 82 and Montgomerie's 82 was later altered to an 84 when he was penalised two strokes for kicking the sand in

a bunker on the 13th. Faldo had an 80. "It's a long time since I played in a gusting 40mph wind," the Masters champion said. "It was severe but it wasn't unplayable. I lost heart after the 8th when I hit a putt four inches left and it missed the hole by seven feet on the right. The only fun I had was hitting two drives 390 yards."

So it came down to Ames, trying for only his second victory in a PGA European Tour event. He reached the last green in two but then, in making sure he left himself an uphill second putt, he slightly overdid it. His ball ended nine feet short but it made no difference. The tall, slim man, who had coped so well, rammed in the putt for a 72 and a total of five under par. No wonder he punched the air happily.

The wind had swung around overnight from the north east to the south west. The first hole, which had been played in a strong left to right wind, was now experiencing an equally strong blow from right to left. The wind did not abate all day and in mid-afternoon it was said to be gusting to 50mph.

It was so strong that Andy McFee, the tournament director, moved the flags to more suitable positions on three holes and moved five tees to easier positions. The players' names had to be Sellotaped to the mobile scoreboards and white horses were being whipped up on the lake by the 8th and 17th.

Although the wind would not have been out of place on a links course, it was too strong for an inland course such as The Oxfordshire. "I didn't expect it to be as windy as this," Rees Jones, the course designer, admitted as he battled his way into the teeth of wind up the side of the 18th. "I think this weather is about three weeks too late."

The problem the excessive wind caused was this. A player could find himself over a shot that required him to punch the ball low to run onto the green, yet the layout of the course dictated that the shot be hit high and with spin.

The scores gave a good indication of how difficult conditions were. Jean Van de Velde's 89, 17 over par, was the



Montgomerie, who led the tournament by three strokes after 54 holes, chips to the pin at the 8th green on his way to a round of 84

worst of the day and the Frenchman, who has won once on the European tour, was mortified. "It was the most embarrassing day of my life," he said. "It wasn't golf we were playing. It was a disgrace. One over for three days and then 17 over for the fourth. People will think I have forgotten how to play. It's enough to sicken you."

Ronan Rafferty took an 88, the same as Adam Hunter, Francisco Valera an 87, and Jeff Hawkes an 85, which included an 11 at the fifth. Faldo dropped nine strokes in eight holes, Langer six in eight, Woosnam five in six.

Rolf Muntz just reached the front edge of the 18th with two drives while Sandy Lyle's three-foot putt there began to move just before he hit it.

In short, the course was very close to being unplayable. "It should not have been stopped," Langer said. "But it was very close to it. The

trouble is the course is so exposed. There are no trees, no shrubs, no houses."

George Griffiths, of Vantage Promotions, who was in charge of the tented village, said: "We nearly lost two tents. We had to call in an extra crew to help secure them and I had to stand on the flaps

of another to stop it blowing away."

As Faldo was driving on the 8th, an umbrella went bowling past him. Three-foot high plastic litter bins were being blown over and one lost count of the number of times one saw a hat blown off or a polystyrene cup plucked out of a frozen hand.

Couples birdied two of the first four holes and had three more birdies, but those successes were tempered by three bogeys.

Dave Stockton matched Bob Murphy's one-day-old course record of 62, ten under par, to join Jay Sigel at the top of the leader board after two rounds of the seniors' Cadillac NFL Classic at Clifton, New Jersey.

Murphy, whose five-shot lead was the largest first-round advantage on the Senior Tour this year, lost it all after a second-round 71. It gave him an 11-under-par total of 133 and left him tied for the lead with Sigel, who returned a 64.

Scores 28

Couples birdied two of the first four holes and had three more birdies, but those successes were tempered by three bogeys.

Mayumi Murai, runner-up in her previous two tournaments, had help from her nearest rival's last-hole double bogey yesterday to win the Chukyo TV Bridgestone women's tournament in Kasugai, Japan, by one shot.

Murai started the final round one stroke behind Kumiko Hiyoshi, and was still one shot behind after a par on the final hole gave her a one-over-par round of 73 and a total of 211, five under par. But Hiyoshi sliced into a pond on the par-four 18th, took a double bogey, and finished with a 75 for a total of 212.

The victory was Murai's sixth in a seven-year career, and her first since winning the 1993 Toyo Suisan tournament.

Karrie Webb, of Australia, winner of two US LPGA tournaments this season, missed a number of short birdie putts in a round of 72 and finished equal third on 215 in a tournament in western Japan.

"I wasn't putting very well yesterday and today," Webb, 21, the rookie of the year on the European Tour last season, said.



British women lift Olympic hopes

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE Britain women's eight raised hopes for Olympic qualification by producing two good performances at Duisburg Regatta at the weekend. Forced to race with a substitute for the injured, and very experienced, Miriam Batten, they finished third on Saturday behind Romania and Canada but, crucially, ahead of Germany and Holland, who have already booked Atlanta places.

Yesterday Britain sealed fourth spot after Holland produced a fine display, splitting Romania and Canada to finish second. The standard was underlined by the fact that Romania beat the world record when winning on Saturday.

The men's eight, also forced to race with a substitute because of illness, failed to reach their final on either day. However, a newly-formed women's lightweight four, including Jo Nitsch and Robyn

Morris, 1995 world champion silver medal-winner, took gold in the lightweight class on Saturday and silver among the heavyweights.

The lightweight men raced two different crews in the eight over the two days and both finished in second place to confuse the selectors. The men's lightweight four, already qualified for Atlanta, failed to get among the medals on either day.

Neither the men's nor women's lightweight double sculls, both fighting for Olympic places, reached their finals. Andy Sinton and Nick Strange experienced tough heats on both days but according to Brian Armstrong, the international manager, are "still in the hunt". As with Alison Brownless and Jane Hall, in the women's double, everything hinges on their showing in Lucerne next month.

Results, page 28

Graf grinds out victory

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN BERLIN

A NINTH German Open tennis title, another \$200,000 safely in the bank, but for Steffi Graf, a week's work has not been as productive as she had hoped. She came to Berlin looking to hone her game on clay in preparation for the French Open and boost her confidence after a miserable performance in Rome the week before. But yesterday, faced with her first real test of the tournament, she struggled to beat Karina Habsudova, the giant-killer of the week, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Habsudova's game-plan has been the same in every match — hit the ball early, hit the ball hard and let your opponent make the mistakes. Against Graf in the first set, the plan was working perfectly. Graf's famous and ferocious forehand was out of kilter and Habsudova was making the most of it.

Only in the second set, as Habsudova appeared a little stunned at having taken a set from the world No 1, did Graf begin to look more business-

like. Habsudova was always chasing Graf's shadow or, as she put it, "if she is putting pressure on you, you can't put pressure on her".

Just when it looked as if Graf was firmly in control, however, breaking Habsudova for an early lead at the start of the third set, the tools of her trade started to let her down. Time and again she was caught by the power of Habsudova's backhand.



Graf: erratic

point at 5-3 and tried to be clever. Moving wide to take the service on her forehand for what she thought would be a thundering winner, she left the court wide open and was promptly punished. The scream directed at no one in particular said it all.

"I was frustrated," she said. "I did not play well on that point. I tried for something that was not right and after that I was upset and a bit nervous and I was making mistakes."

Against someone playing their first big tournament final, however, experience finally told. Habsudova broke to level the score at 5-5 only to be broken herself, allowing Graf to serve for the match. On her second match point she made no mistake with the forehand but even with the victory in the bag, she was not particularly happy. The French Open is only one week away and her performance yesterday was not what she had in mind.

Hayles waiting for result of inquiry

BY PETER BRYAN

ROB HAYLES, a double British cycling champion on the track, left Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre yesterday applauded as the new holder of the ten-miles road time-trial title but, like the other medal-winners, uncertain as to whether his victory would be confirmed.

Before the awards ceremony it was announced that the results should be accepted as "provisional" and that the event would be subject to an inquiry by the Road Time Trials Council, the governing body.

Hayles, who recorded a time of 20min 06sec, was perplexed by the announcement but officials declined to reveal why the event was under investigation and which regulation covered any alleged infringement. The most likely, in cycling's "race of truth", would be that a rider had received pace or other assistance from a vehicle.

Hayles, winner in 1994, was fastest at all checks but had an anxious wait of two hours before the defending champion, Richard Frebille, completed his run. He finished 41sec off the pace in fifth spot.

Stuart Dangerfield, with 20min 29sec, took the silver medal with the veteran, Geoff Platts, third in 20min 43sec.

Winds of near gale force persisted throughout the event but could not prevent Hayles from reaching the turning point in 11min 15sec, which gave him a lead of 21sec lead over Dangerfield. After anticipating an easier ride back, he was forced to lower his gear on the downhill run to the finish.

"It was never easy anywhere on the course but I knew I was fit enough to sustain 20 minutes of agony," the Team Ambrosia rider said.

Hayles switches to track racing later this week in the national championships at Manchester.

Rangers manager prepares to build on Scottish Cup success

Smith plans advance into Europe

Rangers 5
Heart of Midlothian 1

By Kevin McCarrar

RANGERS' victory in the Tennents Scottish Cup final on Saturday, which featured a Gordon Durie hat-trick, not only obliterated Heart of Midlothian, but also wiped away all doubts about the team's desire to resist challenges. The performance, which secured a fourteenth double for the Ibrox club, was a show of strength as well as a display of stylish football.

The side was eloquent enough on the field, but Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, then put the declaration into bold words. There was no bravado, just calm calculation yesterday when he said: "If we can add a player or two we could be as strong as we were three seasons ago." In 1993, Rangers came close to a place in the European Cup final.

Despite his diffidence, new signings are already certain. It is widely believed that a centre back will be purchased soon and though Gianluca Vialli, of Juventus, may well turn down an offer from Smith, the club are likely to acquire another expensive forward instead. All the activity is aimed at improving on the more recent, insipid, results in Europe.

Restless planning, however, is also Rangers' way of retaining freshness. Each signing carries a symbolic value, demonstrating that no complacency will be tolerated. Perhaps, though, Smith may allow himself to dwell a little on the Scottish Cup final, for a brief spell of satisfaction will not undermine the entire Rangers' enterprise.

He is also entitled to perpetual pride in his acumen in signing Brian Laudrup from Fiorentina for a paltry £2.3 million in 1994. On Saturday the Hearts players hardly seemed able to stay in the same vicinity as the Dane, let alone stop him.

In domestic football, Laudrup's only experience of cup finals had come in the early years in his homeland. At Hampden, the event served only to delight and inspire him. He is a rare amalgam of talents, for the delicate footwork is employed by a quick, lithe body and his mind is as supple as his muscles.

He gave Rangers the lead in the 27th minute with a clever,



Durie, the Rangers forward who scored a hat-trick, manages to shake off the close attentions of Bruno at Hampden on Saturday

precise goal. Durie's deft job released him and the ensuing encounter illustrated the psychological tyranny of the Dane.

Rousset hesitated in moving forward, knowing that Laudrup loves nothing more than to dribble round goalkeepers. By remaining within his six-yard box, however, the Frenchman failed to narrow the angle and a well-placed drive tore past him.

If there was an element of misjudgment about that goal, the one that followed could only be described as a fiasco. Four minutes into the second half, Rousset allowed Laudrup's cross to slip through his legs.

Hearts were then obliged to

pitch men forward as they tried to rescue the match, but that merely left the Rangers forwards with more room in which to work.

Durie was the prime beneficiary, claiming the first of his three goals with a nonchalant volley. His hat-trick is only the third in the history of Scottish Cup finals but his achievement is, nonetheless, liable to be seen more as an indicator of Laudrup's excellence, for the Dane was the creator on each occasion.

The rest of a fine Rangers team, including Gascoigne, might have been little more than scenery shifters as Laudrup dominated centre stage.

Colquhoun struck a superb

20-yarder for Hearts to reduce the deficit to 3-1, but even that amounted to a mere walk-on part. The Edinburgh club will squirm over their failure to find a proper role in this game.

The loss of their captain, Locke, with an ankle injury in the eighth minute was disruptive, but it hardly accounts for the drubbing. The stature of the Hearts youngsters diminished at Hampden and the experienced men could exert no influence. Pasquale Bruno, once of Juventus and Torino, was impressed by the good humour of the supporters, wryly reflecting that the police generally have to intervene when the score reaches 5-1 in Italy.

Those that had travelled from Edinburgh were tolerant, because they knew that their adversaries had been irresistible. In the early afternoon, long before kick-off, Gascoigne had challenged a ball-boy to a penalty-kick contest and lost. The Englishman then sportingly handed the youngster a banknote. Gascoigne was certainly the only Rangers player on Saturday to find out what it feels like to be second best.

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN (3-5-2): G Rousset — A McKenna, P Bruno (sub: J Robertson, Smith), P Ritchie — D McPherson, G Lochie (sub: A Lawrence, S), G Mackay, S Fulton, M Forster — J Colquhoun, A Johnston.
RANGERS (3-5-2): A Gordon — A McLennan, R Gough, J Brown — A Cisterni, Ferguson (sub: I Murray, S), P Gascoigne, S McColl, D Robertson — B Laudrup, G Durie.
Referee: H Davies



Laudrup: triumphant

France coach braves critics by deciding to omit Cantona

By Peter Ball

THERE is no place for Eric Cantona in the France squad for the European championship. England's Footballer of the Year has failed to convince Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, that he is worth his place and he was omitted from the squad announced yesterday.

Cantona is not the only famous absentee. His old striking partner, Jean-Pierre Papin, of Bayern Munich, and his sparring partner, David Ginola, are also left out, but his is the most controversial of Jacquet's omissions. The coach has decided not to disrupt the formula that has brought his young team qualification during a 20-game unbeaten run.

Although Ginola's absence will provoke regrets among supporters of Newcastle United, the decision to omit Cantona, the Manchester United forward, will produce the greater reaction — as Jacquet recognised. "Eric's qualities as a player have never been in doubt," Jacquet said. "But I have several priorities — to obtain the best possible result at Euro 96, to work for the future, for the 1998 World Cup in France and to give the young generation a chance to meet the best teams in Europe."

Although it was not unexpected, Cantona himself predicting it, the decision inevitably raised eyebrows, and some heat, in Manchester. After the FA Cup Final, Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, compared Cantona's ability to influence games with that of Cruyff and Maradona among others, and such luminaries as Sir Bobby Charlton and Paddy Crerand also expressed disbelief at the prospect of Cantona being omitted.

Pleading English supporters is not one of Jacquet's considerations. His decision is, though, a brave one. A failure in the championship now would bring widespread criticism, and with Cantona still a week short of his thirtieth birthday, to dismiss him from consideration for 1998 seems premature.

A recent survey by L'Equipe, the French sports newspaper,

showed that 83 per cent of supporters were in favour of Cantona's recall after his impressive return to the game after his eight-month ban. Cantona had lost the France captaincy after the attack on the Crystal Palace supporter which led to his suspension and, although he said last week that he would be happy just to be part of the squad, Jacquet obviously felt that having such a strong personality on the fringe of the team could be disruptive.

The comments of Youri Djorkaeff, the Paris Saint-Germain player, that he, his team-mate Patrice Loko and Zinedine Zidane deserved the places after their success, suggested that support for Cantona's reinstatement also

SQUAD

B Lama (Paris Saint-Germain), F Bernier (AS Monaco), B Marlet (Marseille), J Armand (Toulouse), E Di Marzio (AS Monaco), F Lebourd (Strasbourg), L Blanc (Auxerre), S Lizarazu (Bordeaux), L Thuram (AS Monaco), A Roche (Paris Saint-Germain), V Guerin (Paris Saint-Germain), D Deschamps (Lyon), M Desailly (AC Milan), Y Djorkaeff (Paris Saint-Germain), Z Zidane (Bordeaux), S Lamouchi (Auxerre), C Karamba (Sampdoria), C Martina (Auxerre), P Loko (Paris Saint-Germain), C Duguey (Bordeaux), M Madar (AS Monaco), R Pedros (Nantes).

would not be unanimous inside the squad. "Why should we have our places taken?" Djorkaeff asked.

"It makes sense for Youri and me to play in the present set-up," Zidane added.

Ginola, too, had expected his omission but, unlike Cantona, who wished the team well, he was less gracious. "They don't have the same mentality as me," he said on the selection policy a week ago. "But I'm looking forward to a long summer holiday with my wife and family — and coming back for training on July 17."

With France having two games at St James' Park, the selection of Ginola might have produced some local support, but that thought did not sway Jacquet. "I don't expect English crowds to support France in any way," he said.

Hooligan threat, page 4

Hemmings completes Macclesfield's day

Macclesfield Town 3
Northwich Victoria 1

By Walter Gamble

THE Northwich Victoria supporters in the disappointing crowd of 8,672, the lowest for an FA Umbro Trophy final, booed Tony Hemmings, their former player, throughout an engrossing contest at Wembley yesterday.

Hemmings, however, simply got on with his business, the mixture of tricks and skills on the left wing that make him one of the non-League game's most distinctive characters, and he had the last laugh with a splendid solo goal that

sealed victory for Macclesfield Town.

Fed by Phil Power, he sprinted 60 yards and calmly placed his shot past Greygoose to settle the all-Cheshire final with nine minutes remaining. Two minutes later Derek Ward, the Northwich full back, was sent off after committing a second bookable foul — both on Hemmings. Substituted in the final minute, Hemmings resisted the temptation for any triumphal gesture, offering equal applause to both sets of supporters.

Hemmings' final flourish was needed to subdue a second-half Northwich rally, after Macclesfield had gone in

at half-time two goals to the good. Their first, in the nineteenth minute, was a powerful header by Steve Payne, running on to a long free kick by Gardner and shaking off the attention of Cooke, the Northwich forward, who had been despatched to mark him.

Macclesfield showed that they could hit their passes just as accurately in open play, and, with 28 minutes gone, a 45-yard ball by Wood found Coates running down the left wing. He delivered his cross early and Burgess, the Northwich defender, aware that Power was running in behind him, stretched to put the ball out of play only to send it thumping against the

stanchion at the back of the net and back into the arms of his bemused goalkeeper.

Northwich attacked vigorously in response. Price, the Macclesfield goalkeeper, turned the ball over the crossbar after a smart shot on the turn by Williams. From the resulting corner, Walters, a classy midfielder, hit a cross to the far post where Cooke was unmarked with a gaping goal at which to aim. Sadly, for Northwich, he could only hit against the far post.

Macclesfield dominated the rest of the half but Northwich came out after the interval with renewed confidence and were rewarded with a well-worked goal in the 53rd

minute. Walters robbed Hemmings in midfield and played the ball perfectly to the feet of Williams as he ran into the penalty area. He took one pace further and then played the ball past Price.

Chances fell to both sides in the later stages of an increasingly open game, but it was Hemmings who set his stamp on the afternoon and was, unsurprisingly, named man of the match.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — C Eddy, N Howarth, S Payne, M Gardner — D Lyons, N Bown, S Wood (sub: K Hume, Barry), A Hemmings (sub: P Cawell, 59) — M Coates, P Power.
NORTHWICH VICTORIA (4-4-2): D Greygoose — D Wood, G Abel (sub: L Steele, 77), D Burgess (sub: W Simpson, 85), C Dilly — C Williams, B Butler, S Walters, D Vicary — J Cooke, G Humphreys.
Referee: M Reed

Tired England stay on course

England 3
Portugal 0

By Sarah Forde

THE England women's football team won their last European championship group three qualifying match, against Portugal at Griffin Park, Brentford, yesterday, and will now face a play-off over two legs against Spain in September in their attempt to reach the finals.

Two goals from Kerry Davis and one from Kelly Smith, her fourth in six international matches, gave England the win they needed but, after a long season, they were lacklustre

against an embarrassingly weak Portugal side.

"We won the game but didn't play our best," Ted Coppeland, the England coach, said. "Our girls have played a lot of games recently."

Davis's opening goal in the tenth minute, a clever lob from outside the penalty area, was overshadowed minutes later by an injury to Cristina Correia, the Portugal goalkeeper.

Correia, eager to retrieve the ball for a goal kick, tripped and crashed into a photographer, ending her participation in the game.

For Antonio Simoes, the Portugal manager, the incident was indicative of his

players' misplaced enthusiasm. "Before the game I said to her to take her time in everything," he said. "But the first thing she does is run to get the ball and then she injures herself. They are so enthusiastic and ready, but she paid the price."

Paula Pera, her replacement, was to blame for the second goal. Her poor goal kick was headed back into the area and, as Davis hesitated, Smith arrived to score.

Davis's solo effort in the 53rd minute stretched the England lead before Portugal had their first and only shot, in the seventeenth minute, but Carla Conto drove her effort into the side-netting.

Risks just too great on a tour much too far

Rob Hughes and David Miller, opposite, on the pros and cons of the two-match foray to the Far East that England begin today

England's trek to the Far East is a journey of confusion rather than of Confucian logic. The players, some of them still rehabilitating from serious injuries, others stiff from the game against Hungary on Saturday, board a plane today for a 13½-hour flight to China. As they do, the sage words of Bob Paisley, who managed Liverpool to more trophies at home and abroad than any other Englishman, spring to mind: "Flying is the paraffin in a player's petrol tank."

The words of Paisley should represent a warning more severe than all that has been written and said about the alarming state of the Workers Stadium pitch in Peking, for the man knew players, sometimes better than they knew themselves.

Significantly, the route England take today, fleeing it is said from the virus of hooliganism and from the pests in journalism, stops off at Copenhagen. That was the venue for the 1966 World Cup winners' penultimate match in preparation — they never ventured outside Europe — and Sir Bobby Charlton, a star of that team, said last week that he cannot imagine why England are taking such a risk so close to the most important competition on home soil since that achievement.

"The players need rest," Sir

Bobby said. "It takes only two days to get back to match fitness at this time of the year, and remember that the team that holds the European championship, Denmark, came off the beaches, relaxed and rested, because of their late entry to the 1992 tournament."

Perceptive words, indeed, from the normally uncritical Sir Bobby. Equally so is the observation of Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, who was most responsible for granting England Euro 96. "I couldn't believe it when I heard where you are going," Johansson said. "After all, you have to do well in Euro 96."

The FA has been at pains to deny that money is a reason to play in Peking and Hong Kong. More fool them. Do they really consider that Uruguay, France, Yugoslavia and Israel, not to mention such clubs as Lazio, AC Milan, Bayern Munich and Palmeiras, of Brazil, have been flocking to China merely through the great desire to help to bring that vast nation, of a fifth of the world's population, out into the professional sphere of football?

The profit motive is what

tempts them to fly all those hours, into a time zone seven hours beyond them, into a new culture and onto, it seems, pitches that have always been less than even. When West Bromwich Albion made their pioneering tour to China in 1978, when Bert Millichip was merely a club chairman and not Sir Bert of the FA, he admitted there and then that the pitch was "the least good" his club had ever been asked to perform upon. Sir Bert, no doubt conserving his energies for the rigours of



Adams: just back from injury

Euro 96, is not among the FA luminaries aboard this visit.

Terry Venables calls those of us who harbour doubts about the trip, so very close to the event of a lifetime, "ignorant". I have to reply that the ignorant include all foreign managers, some of them preparing their own teams to come to England, that I have spoken to on this issue. Venables speaks of "bonding" his squad, yet five of the 26 aboard will have to drop out the day after they return. They are on the rack of uncertainty, not knowing which are the odd five out, a form of Chinese torture if ever there was one. Hardly the circumstances that help to bond competitive players.

But which of us would wish to see something of China? Even if it is only a couple of days, the adage that travel broadens the mind ought to inspire the participants. In this, Venables is probably justified, for a camp concentrated over the better part of a month at Bisham Abbey could indeed become numbing.

However, the press does exist in the Orient, too, and, aside from those undesirable who will travel in pursuit of

stories around England, there will surely be gentlemen of the media who ask unsuspecting English players what they think of China's human rights, or wrongs.

Finally, apparently, it is all a mission to ensure that the dreaded travelling hooligans are out-distanced. Maybe, in that, a journey that begins with check-in at 9am today and concludes at the Great Wall Sheraton at 8am tomorrow will be fulfilling. What it does do is put a great distance between England players who need medical back-up and the FA's Lillieshall rehabilitation centre. One thinks of Tony Adams, who has had just one game since a cartilage operation in January, and of Alan Shearer, who played 90 minutes on Saturday after his groin operation.

Adams is now a coveted individual, given England's epidemic of unfitness at centre back. Shearer, if chosen for the game in Peking, must apparently evade Jiang Feng, who is rated China's most uncompromising defender. But if any players pick up an injury in China or Hong Kong, and then have to face the return journey, the limbs stiffening with every hour, the very purpose of a preparatory tour will be counter-productive.

ROB HUGHES



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Puskas sees Hungary offer muted challenge at Wembley

Anderton widens England's options

England 3
Hungary 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

LET there be no delusions. England direly needed goals and the two from Darren Anderton and the third from David Platt were as precious as oxygen on a cold and grey Saturday at Wembley when the old stadium a third full. What was more than obvious was that the pitiable quality of Hungary, the acquiescence of their defence, made this welcome change from goalless England games a somewhat hollow last home outing before the European championship.

Worse, England may have lost more than they gained. For when Mark Wright over-stretched in his first, mistimed tackle, he became the fourth casualty in what the coach, Terry Venables, refers to as England's cursed position. No one can be sure until the inflammation around Wright's knee subsides, but he is out of the junket to China and Hong Kong and if a strained medial ligament is the true diagnosis, then he will struggle as much as Steve Howey, Gary Pallister and

Bruce Grobbelaar, one of the players at the centre of match-fixing allegations, has been appointed as deputy coach to the Zimbabwe national team. Grobbelaar, 38, the former Liverpool goalkeeper, was released by Southampton at the end of the season.

Tony Adams to represent his country when Euro 96 kicks off on June 8.

Yet, for international observers of the great game, there was a deeper sadness settled on Wembley Stadium on Saturday. It was embodied in a rotund old man who sat immobile, unmoving beneath the royal box, unmoved by the shrill sounds of schoolchildren who made up the greater number of those entitled to a ground that has had a monopoly of this tedious succession of 17 warm-up games over two years.

The man? Ferenc Puskas, still the most famous footballer from Hungary, and one does not doubt still capable of striking a ball with more accuracy and more potency than the pretenders wearing the red, white and green of his nation.

Mere athletes in football kit, they bore as much resemblance to the Hungary team of 1953 as Puskas now does to the majestic Galloping Major of that side that so outwitted and outscored England. A man with so much joy in his life, Puskas looked on so miserably that one almost wished he could take off spectacles that are as thick as a car windscreen and not really see that Hungary, with its population of ten million, is far, far away from producing another gifted, truly world-class XI.

As for England, who on earth was foolish enough to write up Teddy Sheringham as the English Cantona? The Frenchman operates with



Ferdinand, who had a frustrating afternoon, heads for goal only to be denied by the fingertips of Petry, the Hungary goalkeeper

such perceptive vision that he rejects more options with a single pass than Sheringham could think of in an afternoon; and Sheringham, though indeed he did at times strut around the whole field, contrived to make more misplaced passes in the first half-hour than we see from Cantona in a season.

Sheringham, to be fair, is by some distance the most intelligent support player to a goalscorer England can find, though one hopes all faith in Peter Beardsley is not abandoned on the threshold of the championship. But let Sheringham be what he is, a man compensating with his mind, with his reading of the play, for lack of pace. When he did this in the second half on Saturday, noticeably when he gave Les Ferdinand, Sheringham again illuminated England's attacking designs. He struck the crossbar with a mighty shot.

Jason Wilcox, who made an industrious and satisfying debut on the left flank, had headed against the bar after only two minutes.

But it was Anderton, returning with that coltish stride and ability to drift in from the right flank to scoring positions, who

punished the hapless Hungarians. In the 38th minute, after Sheringham had moved down the left to a throw-in from Pearce and easily turned the naive Poljak, Ferdinand mistimed his attempted header; Anderton, behind him, mistimed nothing and slid the ball in.

The red shirts were static,

the Hungarians as green as their stockings. And so it was in the 52nd minute when Ince, by a distance the most incisive and authoritative Englishman on the field, slipped a quick free kick for Platt bravely to score the second. Peripheral Platt may have been, but this was his 27th goal in 58 internationals.

Ferdinand, alas, could not accept his chances and his last act was to frighten Petry, so that the ball ran loose to the grateful Anderton to score his second goal in the 63rd minute. After that came the ludicrous waltz of substitutions. There were ten of them, only two because of injuries. The solitary shot on England's

goal came three minutes from the end and there was a cameo from Dennis Wise, which again demonstrated why he should be nowhere near a place in the England squad. He came on to wrestle with Poljak and, from the ground, to reach up and implant his studs into the Hungarian's thigh within yards of an indulgently smiling referee.

More pleasing was the performance of Gareth Southgate, a man for all positions, so useful when the centre backs are proving so fallible. With all that has been written about the pitch in Peking, how unfortunate that Wright should jeopardise his place for the championship on the magnificent green sward of Wembley.

Then, on June 8, England play Switzerland. Culture shock: we will be watching an England team play when there is something at stake, like the European championship. England, as hosts, were let off qualifying, hence the three years of unending friendliness. At last, England will play a game in which the result will, if such a concept can be allowed in sport, matter.

At last, plausibility will go out of the window. I am sick to death of watching England players playing to look plausi-

ble: to be worth their place in the side, to look the part, to avoid mistakes, not to take risks. And I am quite desperately fed up with watching them play teams that come to Wembley as a kind of footballing tourism, as a homage to the game's past rather than to contribute to its present.

How nice to be here on the sacred turf! A 0-0 draw, please, and no injuries to take back to one's club. So pleasant! England football has served up nothing but the most woeful fare for these past 30 months. What is the point of playing against opposition whose first shot in open play came in the 87th minute? What does one learn about anything in a game in which such flow as existed was disrupted by a total of ten substitutions?

The truth is that football competitions like World Cups and European championships are not about preparation. That is a myth, of coaches and perhaps of marketing. They are about spontaneous combustion. A team will be ignited by an exceptional individual, or perhaps some weird chemistry between quite ordinary players. The first thing happened to England at the 1990 World Cup with Paul Gascoigne; the second happened to Denmark at the European championship of 1992. Denmark, of course, had no preparation at all: they came in as last-second replacements for Yugoslavia.

Spontaneous combustion: what happened to England in 1966, too, after their first match and a half seemed to be speeding them to elimination. It is always the way. The winning side starts as a bunch of individuals and finishes as a team.

It is that galvanising process that enthralled. Who's hot and who's not? The sparkling pace-setter fades, the real heroes emerge. And they are seldom the ones you think: remember Stojichkov, Brodin and Raduciovic from the last World Cup?

Spontaneous combustion: it is something you simply cannot plan for, only pray for. Friendly football matches have nothing to do with it. The England players have come to these friendlies clad in layers of irrelevant garments: club responsibilities, ambitions, careers, fear of error. Visitors to Wembley come dressed in pilgrims' robes. And so we have suffered these endless matches of aching boredom, and people have, naturally, stayed away in droves. England's attempt to fool all the people all the time has fallen short of its target.

It is high time that all this ended. The England players will soon take off their excessive garments of the friendly matches and play the game as it was supposed to be played. Naked Football. At last.

Friendly society offers zero interest rates



SIMON BARNES
At Wembley

At least the Cup Final only lasted for 90 minutes. This has been going on for damn near three years — since November 17, 1993, to be precise — and it is not over yet, though, thank the Lord, the end is in sight and fixed for June 8.

Yes, once again, England got smashed out of their minds on the alcohol-free lager of a "friendly" football match. Oh, very plausible it all was. But what did the match achieve? Well, it got Wright injured and probably out of the European championship finals and it gave away the secret of a mildly cute free kick. Oh yes, and Hungary, their opponents, got "I played at Wembley" stickers for their windcreens.

To describe any football match as "meaningless" is begging the question, but for these all-but-three years, England have not played a single match with any meaning whatsoever, even in the crassest of footballing terms. What on earth has it all been for?

Since that game of November 1993 — remember it? San Marino and a goal conceded in the first minute to the great Gullerit before England won 7-1; still not enough to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals, do I not like that — all England have been doing has been, in the eloquent terminology of football's factory floor, fannying about.

I cannot tell you how sick I am of Terry Venables, the England coach, being plausible. I would like to hear of just something that was not part of the master-plan for the European championship. "We got a few more chances after the tactical switch," he said on Saturday. "There were some good signs in the second half. The teamwork looks pretty good."

What does it matter if your teamwork looks good when the opposition is either not trying or is extremely poor, or both? Venables and his boys now go to Hong Kong and China, a place soon to be called China. No doubt they go there because playing against small, neat Chinese is more perfect preparation for a European football competition. Might as well get a few more players injured.

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Platt, right, slides home England's second goal, his 27th in international football

Venables right to follow Ramsey's lead

Few people understood Alf Ramsey when he promised to win the World Cup, before ultimately doing so. Terry Venables leaves for Asia today, and the final preparation of his European championship squad, equally baffled by criticism that he regards as wide of the mark, not to say perverse.

There is in England misunderstanding of his team and his tactics, and what he regards as an inaccurate belief that they are wasting their time by going to China and Hong Kong. The complexities of pulling a team together, technically and temperamentally, are not immediately obvious.

A comfortable victory over an indifferent Hungary team — which passed the ball better than England for 40 minutes — is being disregarded because of the quality of the opposition. Highly-competent performances against Bulgaria, World Cup semi-finalists, and Croatia, considered to be among the favourites next month, are dismissed as allegedly boring. "It seems," Venables said, resignedly, "that some people don't recognise progress when they see it."

As for the brief Oriental tour, Venables is scornful of the criticism. Hong Kong's likely team may be a patchwork job for the occasion, but one or two easy victories are good for morale, as Hungary themselves proved in their prime long ago. China, on the other hand, are Asian Games finalists, as good or better than some European finalists.

"If we had gone to Florida, everyone would have been content," Venables said, "yet the flying time is little different. Because people know north-

ing of China, they are sceptical about the trip. Part of winning a tournament is being able to handle all circumstances, varying conditions, coping with the unusual. It helps create a unit, and reveals character. Some critics are so narrow-minded."

It tends to be forgotten that England's last match before the World Cup in 1966 was against Poland in Katowice: a two-hour flight and a bumpy, 2½-hour bus ride from Kraków, memorable for an incidence of Ramsey's dry humour. "And what are you intending to do this evening?" an enthusiastic interpreter enquired during the interminable bus journey. "Arrive in Katowice. I hope," a deadpan Old Stoneface replied.

Victory, with the only goal by Roger Hunt, in an intimidating stadium against strong opposition, gave the final proof then that England were ready to take on the world. Venables is sure that the journey this week is not wasted time. A team playing away from home in unfamiliar surroundings is toughened by the experience.

Additionally, China were approved as opponents by the Football Association to avoid the likelihood of attracting troublemakers to possible European venues within easy travelling distance. "More than that, China are no pushover," Venables said. "They've recently beaten Colombia 2-1, and also strong club sides, Peñarol and Sampdoria. It's a good test."

During the past week, and the forthcoming tour, Venables is concentrating on improvement on four specific tactical themes, which he hopes will continue the development of the side. "Currently, we're stopping



Venables: scornful of "perverse" criticism

the opposition's chances, and we're creating our own," he said. Slaven Bilic, the Croatia defender, "considered we were the best side they'd met in two years, including Italy, and Croatia themselves have one of the best midfielders in the game. It's silly to suggest they weren't trying at Wembley."

Venables considers that there were six openings against Croatia that went begging for Fowler and McManaman (two each), Platt and Sheringham — and that, as long as chances are being made, England are indeed making progress.

"When I started, England had lost some international respect," Venables

said. "It was argued that we played an old-fashioned 4-4-2 formation that was too 'readable'. It was wretched to hear constantly that England were behind the times. Now, we've regained some respect, and I think maybe some teams will fear us [in the finals]. That's helpful. To be able to win the competition, we need a bit more time together. We believe it's coming good at the right time, and it's up to us now to prove it."

The England coach is privately delighted at the response to the challenge to his place, and the form, of Paul Ince, who was again the outstanding player against Hungary; and at the recovery of Darren Anderton, who is a key tactical figure on the flank. Anderton is comparable to Martin Peters in the mid-1960s, as he proved with two goals on Saturday. Venables does not see Anderton as competing exclusively for a place with Stone, Fowler and McManaman, rested against Hungary, remain equally key figures for the eventual formation.

The lack of public understanding of the relationship between coach and team is evident from speculation that Glenn Hoddle — absurdly appointed by the FA to replace a man with vastly more experience — should somehow be involved during the European championship. Nothing would more undermine what Venables has so far achieved. He must remain master of the ship until the moment when the reins pass to Hoddle, who will be as raw to the responsibility as was Graham Taylor in 1990.

DAVID MILLER

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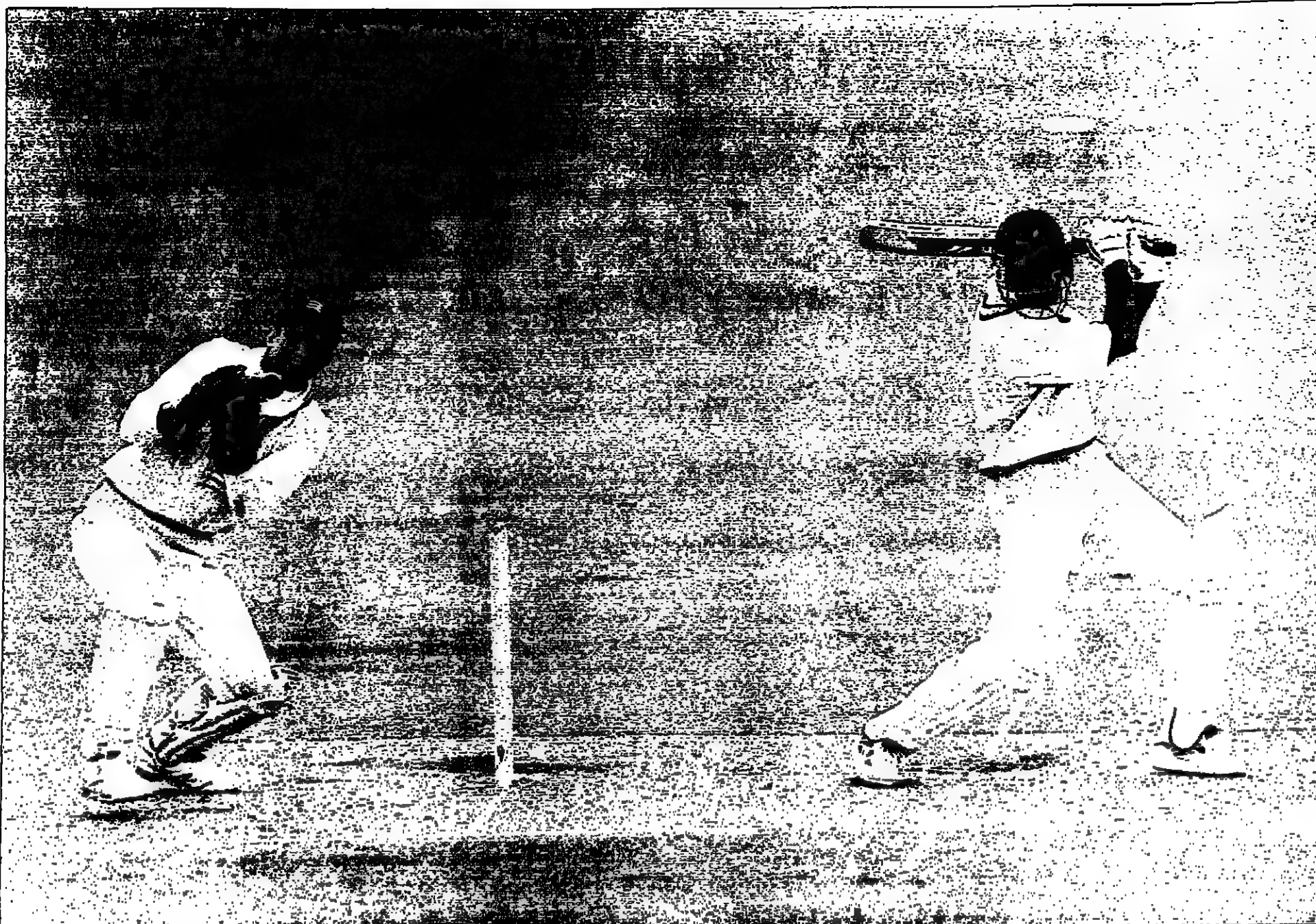


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Touring team take cold comfort from triumph against Middlesex



Brown, the Middlesex wicketkeeper, gathers the ball as Azharuddin, the Indians' captain, misses an attempted cut at Lord's yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Victory cannot disguise Indian failings

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): The Indians beat Middlesex on faster scoring rate

IT WOULD be a misnomer to call the events of yesterday a warm-up for the Texaco Trophy, such was the wintry, windswept feel of Lord's, and allowances must be made accordingly. That said, the Indians looked underprepared and, dare it be said, ill-equipped for what awaits them this week. England, for once, can approach a one-day series as favourites.

With the likely exception of a second spin bowler replacing Ganguly, the Indians will probably field the same side at the Oval on Thursday, so the fact that they

struggled to beat Middlesex, who lost to all four county opponents in the group stage of the Benson and Hedges Cup, was not encouraging for them. They might not have won at all if the Middlesex target, initially 233, had not been harshly revised after a break for rain.

To be fair, it was not a day to bring the best out of the Indians. The trademarks of their cricket are wristy strokeplay and spin bowling; here, they encountered a pitch too slow for the former and temperatures too cold for the latter. Nonetheless, valid reservations persist about the balance and quality of their attack, and some of their batsmen are still below their best.

They arrived burdened by a non-stop itinerary of limited-overs cricket in recent years at the expense of their Test-match development. In the first

hour yesterday this was difficult to discern as they scraped together eleven runs from the initial ten overs, losing both openers in the process. Rathore was leg-before, hitting across the line against Hewitt, a late replacement for the unfit Nash. Then Tendulkar, who had struggled in vain to come to terms with the sluggish surface, opened the face against Fraser and was splendidly caught, low down at slip, by Carr.

Fraser, streamlined of physique though still hangdog by nature, completed a disciplined new-ball spell of seven overs with one wicket for 12, and if Gattling had clung on to a sharp chance to his left at gully, offered by Sidhu off Hewitt, the Indians would have been 30 for three after 16 overs. Instead, Sidhu added 100 in 24 overs with Azharuddin, who confirmed his liking for Lord's —

remember his graceful century in the 1990 Test — with an uninhibited 73 from 103 balls.

The cricket, hereabouts, contained an element of farce. Caps were being blown off with regularity, the umpires called for a heavier set of balls and Fraser, now grazing in the outfield, was followed cruelly and painfully by the ball. One catch stuck, another did not, and fingers were generally so frozen that even Gattling could not summon his indignant pose.

Having been becalmed at 96 for two after 30 overs, the Indians scored 136 from the last 20. Manjrekar and Jadhav played pleasingly. Nevertheless, the target would not have dismayed Middlesex and, as Weekes and Ramprakash sensibly accelerated, the Indians' cricket lacked penetration and vitality. Srinath

bowled wisely within himself and even Kumble, on whom so much depends, did not threaten.

Ramprakash remains short of fluency, however, and he looked rightly disappointed to fall for 41, hitting across a full-length ball from Ganguly. For a time, Gattling played as if the result was a formality, but when he missed a cut against Kumble, Middlesex subsided.

Carr was bemused by a slower ball from Tendulkar, who is a tidy bowler in such situations, and when rain intervened the target was 77 from 57 balls. This might not have been beyond Weekes, who had played with great composure, but the new equation of 58 from 33 was Middlesex vent down in an artificial flurry of shots and the Indians registered their first win over a county. It was not, however, wholly impressive.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tour match

Middlesex v Indians

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Indians beat Middlesex by a faster scoring rate

INDIANS

V Rathore lbw b Hewitt 0
S R Tendulkar c Carr b Fraser 45
N S Sidhu c Fraser b Weekes 73
*M Azharuddin b Tendulkar 73
S V Manjrekar c Gattling b Tendulkar 31
A D Jadhav c Carr b Tendulkar 21
S Ganguly b Pollock 21
*N R Mongia c Hewitt b Weekes 1
J Srinath not out 0
Extras (lb 3, w 5, nb 2) 10
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 232

Venkatesh Prasad did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-110, 4-161, 5-177, 6-212, 7-226, 8-226.

BOWLING: Fraser 10-2-32-1, Hewitt 10-25-1, Pollock 10-0-50-1, Carr 4-0-17-0, Tendulkar 10-0-66-3, Weekes 6-0-38-2.

MIDDLESEX

P N Weekes b Kumble 81
M R Ramprakash b Ganguly 41
*M W Gattling b Kumble 24
J D Carr c Mongia b Tendulkar 5
J C Pollock c Tendulkar b Kumble 1
*K R Brown not out 1
O A Shah c Sidhu b Srinath 0
J P Bennett b Srinath 0
A R C Fraser not out 0
Extras (lb 6, w 4, nb 8) 18
Total (7 wickets, 46 overs) 192

P C R Tunnell and D Flett did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-141, 3-150, 4-177, 5-180, 6-190, 7-190.

BOWLING: Srinath 10-0-30-2, Venkatesh Prasad 7-2-13-0, Kumble 10-0-44-3, Ganguly 7-0-35-1, Tendulkar 10-1-41-1, Jadhav 5-0-17-0.

Umpires: J D Bord and G Shep.

AXA Equity & Law League

Durham v Yorkshire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Durham won toss): Yorkshire (40s) beat Durham by 63 runs

YORKSHIRE

*D Byas c Listerwood b Betts 12
M P Vaughan lbw b Betts 7
M G Bevan c Roseberry b Birbeck 48
A McGrath c Collingwood b Betts 3
C White c Listerwood b Foster 1
*R J Blakey not out 61
A C Morris not out 14
Extras (lb 4, w 8, nb 2) 14
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 199

D Gough, P J Hartley, C E W Silverwood and R D Stamp did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-38, 3-46, 4-61, 5-105.

BOWLING: Betts 8-0-25-3, Wood 8-0-41-0, Kileen 8-0-30-0, Foster 8-0-45-1, Betts 8-0-51-1.

DURHAM

S L Campbell lbw b Silverwood 7
J E Harris c Bevan b Silverwood 1
J I Longley c Blakey b Morris 21
P D Collingwood c Bevan b Hartley 9
S D Barbeck run out 7
J Foster c Morris b Silverwood 9
*D G Listerwood lbw b Gough 15
N Kileen c Blakey b Gough 0
J Wood b Morris 1
M Berra not out 1
Extras (lb 7, w 13, nb 8) 28
Total (32 overs) 136

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-27, 3-31, 4-78, 5-83, 6-128, 7-134.

BOWLING: Gough 6-1-16-2, Silverwood 8-0-26-0, Hartley 6-0-16-1, Stamp 7-0-37-0, Morris 5-0-19-2.

Umpires: D J Constant and T E Jessy.

Essex v Kent

ILFORD (Essex won toss): Kent (40s) beat Essex by five runs

KENT

T R Ward c Irani b Law 19
M V Fleming c Irani b Law 112
N J Long c Law b Irani 18
*K J Hooper c Law b Grayson 25
G S Cowley c Robinson b Grayson 2
M A Eatham not out 25
*S A Walker c Hussain b Hoff 9
*S A Eatham not out 15
Extras (lb 5, w 5, nb 2) 15
Total (6 wickets, 40 overs) 272

M J McCague, N W Preston and T N Wain did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-49, 2-101, 3-182, 4-194, 5-251, 6-271.

BOWLING: Irani 8-0-23-1, Cowan 8-0-34-0, Law 8-1-81-2, Irani 6-0-42-1, Such 3-0-24-0, Grayson 7-0-57-2.

Essex

D D J Robinson b McCague 54
S G Law c Marsh b Wain 6
N Hussain b Fleming 8
R C Irani run out 80
G A Gooch b Fleming 32
*P J Richard run out 13
*R J Rollins not out 10
A P Grayson run out 1
M C Holt c Walker b Fleming 0
P J Cowan run out 0
P M Such not out 1
Extras (lb 4, w 12, nb 9) 25
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 267

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-84, 3-145, 4-224, 5-253, 6-264, 7-268.

BOWLING: Eatham 8-0-24-0, Wain 8-0-50-1, McCague 8-0-63-1, Hooper 8-0-39-0, Fleming 7-0-50-3, Preston 7-0-15-0.

Umpires: B Leadbeater and V A Holder.

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

TRENT BRIDGE (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (40s) beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

P R Pollard b Austin 10
A A Metcalfe lbw b Austin 12
G F Archer lbw b Watkinson 14
*P Johnson c Chappell b Gallian 46
C L Carnes c Lloyd b Gallian 24
M P Downham b Gallian 1
*W M Moon not out 15
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 1) 3
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 115

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-24, 3-145, 4-224, 5-253, 6-264, 7-268.

BOWLING: Eatham 8-0-24-0, Wain 8-0-50-1, McCague 8-0-63-1, Hooper 8-0-39-0, Fleming 7-0-50-3, Preston 7-0-15-0.

Umpires: B Leadbeater and V A Holder.

THE TIMES

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Fleming: century for Kent

0-47-1, Udal 8-0-44-2, Maru 4-0-43-0

Hampshire

R S M Morris b Pollock 21

J S Listerwood b Pollock 1

M J Marsh c Bevan b Pollock 18

W K M Benjamin c N M K Smith 25

P R Whitaker b Giles 25

K J James b Reave 9

*A N Ayrton b Brown 4

S O Udal c Phipps b Brown 4

M J Thrusfield c Giles b Brown 1

C A Connor c Giles b Reave 1

*R J Maru not out 15

Extras (lb 2, w 8, nb 2) 12
Total (28.8 overs) 148

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-59, 3-85, 4-103, 5-105, 6-116, 7-137, 8-143, 9-145.

BOWLING: Reave 5-0-25-2, Pollock 8-0-35-3, Wain 3-0-19-0, Brown 6-0-17-4, Giles 2-0-11-1.

Umpires: K J Lyons and R A White.

No play yesterday

Bristol: Gloucestershire (20s) Somerset (20s); Cardiff: Glamorgan (20s) Derbyshire (20s); Leicestershire (20s) Worcestershire (20s).

Durham's tale of woe continues

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Durham won toss): Yorkshire beat Durham by 63 runs

DURHAM

DURHAM'S season is rolling towards oblivion. They have now lost eight out of ten matches in three competitions against first-class opponents; one of the other two games was a washout. It is a sorry tale, and there is no end in sight.

Everything that can possibly go wrong is doing so, and there is nothing the players can do except roll up their sleeves and change their luck by their own efforts. Betts did his best yesterday, taking three early wickets after Roseberry won the toss, but the batting was poor and Yorkshire's victory was never in doubt.

You have heard of the "pinch-hitter" but for this match Durham revealed a "locomotive" who, to everybody's surprise, turned out to be their West Indian opener. Sherwin Campbell batted through 12 overs for seven runs as Durham chased 200. He does not look happy at the

moment, far from home in an unnaturally cold climate, struggling to lay a decent bat on the ball.

Yorkshire, who completed their championship victory the previous day, were pegged back initially by Betts, who bowled with notable success in the first-class fixture. Before he was through he removed Byas, Vaughan and McGrath for 26 runs, to leave Yorkshire in some difficulty at 46 for three.

When White went 15 runs

later, and with the innings almost at the halfway stage, Durham were in a handy position. But Bevan batted sensibly for his 46 and when he was caught by Roseberry, running round from mid-off, Blakey and Morris added 93 unbeaten runs in the last 11 overs.

Blakey, whose best days with the bat are behind him, ended up with 61 from 69 balls. Morris, the tall left-hander, whose most productive days lie ahead, made 48 from 42 balls. Durham's fielding in the closing overs was not all it might have been and Longley was particularly keen to leave the field after committing two howlers in the deep, which cost boundaries.

Roseberry was out to Silverwood's first ball, playing on, and the bowler impressed in his first spell, varying his pace intelligently and achieving further success when Morris was superbly taken at backward point by Bevan, and Campbell was leg-before. Bevan held another outstanding catch in that key one-day position in the fifteenth over to dismiss Collingwood.

Durham were never going

to win the game from that unpromising start, hard though Foster tried to fill their sails. He made 36 from 34 balls, hitting Stemp high over long-on for six, but Silverwood's return accounted for him. The innings ended tamely as Gough took two wickets and Morris, who has the makings of a handsome all-rounder, took his second wicket to bring down the curtain. He also held the catch that dismissed Foster.

The only consolation for Durham on this miserable day was the return of John Wood, their pace bowler, who has missed the last year through injury. He did not bowl especially well but he is at least available, and he will not lack opportunity. The more able-bodied men Durham can call on the better, for this summer will test their resources and their spirit.

Silverwood's figures of four for 26 were his best in the Sunday League and until the pitches here improve the quicker bowlers will all enjoy themselves. The difficulty with the square is not the least of Durham's problems. At the moment all is misery.

The margin of victory was a

mere five runs, for on a decent pitch Essex, Irani to the fore, batted with commendable spirit. This, though, will be of no consequence to Kent, who gratefully accepted the points.

They were indebted to a familiar figure, Matthew Fleming has long been considered the ideal opening batsman in limited-overs cricket. Indeed, such has been his success at this form of the game that he has now been given that task in four-day matches as well. If his technique, as well as his lack of patience, does not ideally suit him to the requirements of first-class cricket — he quite simply likes to hit the first ball of the match to the boundary — then this is no hindrance when it comes to the instant game.

His innings yesterday was a match-winning one. It comprised 112 runs from 91 balls, including 11 fours and five sixes. Adjoining the ground in Valentine's Park is a bowling green, which is no sedate place to be when he is at the wicket. There were runs, too, for Hooper, 73, to go with his century in the championship match, Essex no longer have

With eight balls remaining, Essex required 15 runs. It was within their compass, only new batsmen were constantly appearing at the crease. Ultimately, they fell five runs short.

At Trent Bridge, meanwhile, Lancashire gained a straightforward victory, winning by seven wickets. Nottinghamshire, other than Cairns knocking up a half-century and Johnson, the captain, 48, simply did not make enough runs. Lancashire, of course, are a considerable limited-overs side at present, having beaten Warwickshire last week to gain a Benson and Hedges quarter-final at Old Trafford.

Watkinson chooses to open the batting in this form of cricket and, yesterday, was soon out-scoring his more correct and puritanical partner, Atherton. When he was finally out to Pennett, the medium-pacer, Lancashire more or less had the match won. He and Watkinson had put on 145 for the first wicket and, although Crawley was out without scoring, Gallian remained in a match reduced by rain to 38 overs at five.

Lancashire (41)

Middlesex (17)

Yorkshire (12)

Warwickshire (2)

Nottinghamshire (13)

Notts (11)

Glamorgan (6)

Derbyshire (8)

Leics (7)

Worce (3)

Somerset (14)

Essex (5)

Kent (11)

Surrey (9)

Gloucs (15)

Hampshire (18)

Durham (16)

Sussex (10)

(Last season's positions in brackets)

Lever to restrict such hitting; poor Grayson, recruited from Yorkshire this season, was particularly harshly treated, Trent finished with a total of 276 for six.

Essex made a spirited reply. Robinson began with a half-century; Gooch, batting these days in the middle-order in this competition, contributed quick runs; Irani, the all-rounder whose game has been transformed since arriving at Chelmsford from Manchester, a spirited innings of 80.

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Journeymen conspiring to embarrass champions



ALAN LEE
Cricket Correspondent
Championship Commentary

KEVAN JAMES and Raj Maru are the type of cricketers for whom one is instinctively pleased when things go well. And at Birmingham, they have gone better than either man, so late in such essentially modest careers, can have believed possible. The champions, Warwickshire, face defeat against Hampshire and at the heart of this upset are two men for whom cricket may soon have no time, no patience.

In the exciting, elitist cricket that other counties have embraced and England must inevitably court, there is no potential for the romantic comebacks made by James and Maru this week. No, for two men who have been playing county cricket for 17 years without earning a benefit or so much as suggesting that they might be capable of a step up the ladder.

There are, as few would dispute, far too many cricketers merely surviving on the county circuit long into their thirties, thus depleting its quality and compromising its use as a nursery for Test cricket. There is a downside to such hard-nosed progress, however, for the English professional game has a breadth that is its appeal as well as its millstone. Events such as those at Edgbaston in the past few days cannot lightly be dismissed when, as must surely occur, the county structure is updated by those with the national interest as their priority.

James and Maru began their careers in the same year and at the same club, Middlesex. Neither saw much future there and so, independently, they moved to Hampshire. Maru in 1984 and James a year later. More than a decade on, they are part of the furniture at Southampton and have been sharing the second XI captaincy with resignation if not contentment.

Hampshire, however, had begun the year badly. By the middle of last week, they were out of the Benson and Hedges Cup, had lost their opening games in both the championship and Sunday League and had lost their new captain, John Stephenson, with a hand injury. As if this was not enough, their finances, their very future, are at risk as long as anticipated money from the

lottery to fund their new ground fails to materialise. Among the solutions was a recall for the old retainers.

On Saturday James responded with 118 not out against a Warwickshire attack that routinely sweeps aside such downbeat counties. As for Maru, recall extended to his taking over the captaincy, with Robin Smith now incapacitated by a cracked finger. Maru declared, boldly, to set Warwickshire 359 and then opened the bowling with his own left-arm spin.

Warwickshire may yet win, for they are a team of boundless capacity in such situations. But they have to make the highest total of the match, by 82 runs on a pitch of uncertain bounce. The odds, today, are on a Hampshire win, partly brought about by two men of a dying breed.

Raymond Illingworth has spent some time at Edgbaston this week, but did not, of course, enter the names of Maru and James in his notebook. But the chairman of the England selectors will be looking at a shade smug this morning at the sight of Leicestershire and Yorkshire, his two former counties, at the head of the county championship table.

Both took less than three days to register their second wins of the season against, respectively, Worcestershire and Durham, whose attentions are likely to remain at the opposite end of the table. Although Yorkshire have abundant, youthful talent, as Illingworth is fond of mentioning, Leicestershire continue to make the most of their resources in a way that seems beyond many counties.

Kent, for instance, are an enigma. Stocked with players close to international class, they still finished last in the 1995 championship but have begun the new term rather better. Lancashire have already been beaten and now they are commanding the match against Essex, who were partly responsible for the week's romance. It was they who thrashed Hampshire twice in two days last week, which helped to ensure that Maru and James did not remain at Southampton with the second team.

Changing England, page 23

Lathwell cashing in on net gains

Simon Wilde on a remodelled batsman whose application should be welcomed by England's selectors



Lathwell has discovered how to play with the head as well as the bat

The romantics will be disappointed, the pragmatists delighted. Mark Lathwell, the only cricketer to be chosen for England in modern times for playing every match as though it were a village green affair, has finally changed his ways.

Where once he relied on his wonderful eye to give the ball a thump, now he plays the game where all top-class sport is played: in the head. It seems to be working, as a steady flow of runs testifies.

Lathwell's conversion occurred late last season, when his struggle for runs culminated in his voluntary absence from Somerset's final three championship matches. "One day Peter Bowler [the Somerset vice-captain] came to me and said: 'Let's face it, Mark, your technique is dreadful,'" Lathwell said. "No one had said that to me before. Usually I just got 'Never mind, you're going through a bad patch.'"

"I could have told Peter to get lost, but I did not because I knew deep down he was right. I needed someone to tell me the truth."

Lathwell's response was to embark on a radical overhaul of his game, which did not end with technique. He had been tinkering with that since the second of his two England A tours to South Africa in 1993-94, which had exposed his limitations.

Bowler also encouraged him to examine his mental approach. "Peter gave me some suggestions about what to think about as the bowler runs in, so that I am focused and ready," Lathwell said. "In the past, I hadn't thought about anything much when I batted. When I came into the first-class game, the pitches were so much better than those in the leagues it was like paradise. I could get by on my eye alone."

However, Lathwell's eye did not get him by for long. It was enough for him to score 1,000 runs in his first full season, enough for him to be selected for England, after only 25 championship appearances, in his second. But it was not enough to prevent his confidence being in tatters by the third. His brief Test career - two matches against Australia in 1993 - and the tour of South Africa saw to that.

Two years on, Lathwell, 24, may finally have put those setbacks behind him. During the winter, he spent two days every week in the Taunton nets and studying his game on video. With the

help of the coaching staff - people he would never have gone near in his early days - he made overdue adjustments to his stance and footwork. One day they drilled into place with his new mental disciplines.

Lathwell feels it was important that he began the season as he did, with an authoritative century against Middlesex at Lord's. That convinced him the changes he had made were right. His new-found stability has also been helped by him and his young family - which he has so often put ahead of his career - settling into a new home in Barnstaple.

He certainly strikes a different figure at the crease. Faced with the uncompromising pace of Courtney

Walsh in fading light at Bristol last week, the old Lathwell would have taken his chances and probably soon perished. The new one, though still unleashing an occasional withering drive or cut with his powerful forearms, grafted for two hours for a commendable 49.

He fell to an excellent ball from Walsh that he could do little about and took it philosophically. "Now that he knows why he is getting out he has no reason to become negative about failures he does not understand," one friend said. Lathwell himself said: "I feel better about my game now than at any other time."

In his usual understated

way, Lathwell, who could make a shrinking violet put on a couple of inches simply by walking past it, declared that he is ready to play for England again. "My main aim is to keep my place in the Somerset side," he said, "but of course I want to play for England again. Every county cricketer in the country wants to do that."

Lathwell, who has never let his feet stray far from the ground, has said all along that he could live without England: whether England can live without him if he continues to play as he is doing now must be doubtful. Bowler is in no doubt. "I'm absolutely certain he will be interesting the England selectors in the next couple of years," he said.

Roseberry still confident of happy ending

Michael Henderson meets the captain struggling to earn respect for Durham

Michael Roseberry might be forgiven for seeking places to hide at the moment. The Durham team he leads has been vanquished utterly in the past week, first by Middlesex, who dismissed them for 67 at Lord's, and then by Yorkshire, who completed a victory inside three days by 144 runs at Chester-le-Street on Saturday.

He knows that people are muttering. To the outside world, Durham cricket has regressed since the club was admitted to the county championship in 1992 and now, after just three matches, it is reasonable to say that they will do well to avoid finishing last this season. To be bumping along the bottom after this time was not part of the plan when they petitioned for first-class status and there are some disgruntled voices.

Theirs is a young team, leavened with batting experience in the shape of Roseberry, John Morris and Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies opening batsman, who became the new overseas player when Dean Jones opted to join Derbyshire. They will rely even more heavily on those players now that Jimmy Daley, their promising young batsman, is out of action for the next six weeks after breaking his left index finger on Saturday.

As captain, Roseberry is the most obvious target for local disappointment and he appears to be bearing up well. After the success enjoyed by Newcastle United and Sunderland, some folk feel that all Durham have to do is wave a wand, or a cheque-book, for things to right themselves. Roseberry, like others before him at Durham, is finding out that educating the cricket public to the different world cricketers inhabit is a frustrating exercise.

He has not given up hope; far from it. In time, he feels, Durham will have a decent team and it is his deepest wish, as a man who returned to his home county to take up the captaincy, to provide it. His optimism is undiminished by the battering the team has taken in recent weeks and he will not be distracted by the false expectations of others.

"The way forward is with the youngsters," he said. "The problem is, while they are learning the game, they are still quite naive but if they are playing, they must be learning."

"People always say in England that, unlike Australia, we don't put lads in the team

when they are young enough but there are plenty in our side."

The latest to make an impression is Melvyn Betts, a 21-year-old pace bowler, who took five wickets in the Yorkshire second innings. The trick is integrating him and others, such as Paul Collingwood and Michael Foster, into a side that is more accustomed to winning than losing, and that transformation remains far away.

Roseberry has seen cricket from both sides. At Middlesex, whom he joined as a teenager from Durham School, he won two championships under Mike Gatting and he retains the highest regard for his old club. When Durham played at Lord's, he took the opportunity to discuss things with Gatting and Angus Fraser, his closest cricketing chum, and he took heart from what he heard.

"I struggled for form last year but I am feeling more confident now and it helps to make runs. We have been competitive in most games, but not for the duration. At Lord's, where we bowled out Middlesex on the first day, we lost the game by not making more than 200 in our first innings."

"I am a pretty tough character but if you are losing games then it does get you down. We have got to be more aggressive in our cricket and learn to concentrate throughout a match, not just for parts of it."

That failing was evident in Yorkshire's first innings when Sampa and Silverwood were allowed to make 110 for the last wicket runs that in the end separated the sides.

It cannot help the players that the club itself has never settled down properly. The Riverside ground at Chester-le-Street remains incomplete and when Mike Candlish joins Durham later this summer he will become the third chief executive in four years.

There is no lack of spirit. Simon Brown, their gifted left-arm opening bowler, turned down the chance of a move to Lancashire last winter because he was happy with his lot. Roseberry feels that the arrival as coach of Norman Gifford has helped him, too. "Giff [Gifford] and Geoff Arnold, who has worked with us, are great talkers about the game and it is good for the younger players to grow up in a dressing-room where people talk about the game."

As he would be the first to confess, however, there is a lot of growing up to do.

'Bumping along at the bottom was not part of the plan'

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS		
Tetley's Challenge Series		
Sussex v Indians		
HOVE (first day of three): Sussex drew with the Indians		
SUSSEX: First innings 247 for 4 dec (C W J Athey 80, K Greenfield 68)		
INDIANS: First innings 185 for 3 dec (S R Tendulkar 65, S V Manjrekar 68 not out)		
Second innings		
C W J Athey c Drew b Joshi	31	
K Greenfield not out	141	
M P Sengupta b Joshi	48	
A Wiles not out	48	
Extras (lb 3, nb 6)	9	
Total (2 wickets down)	234	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-79, 2-88, 3-127, 4-147, 5-173, 6-185, 7-189, 8-180, 9-185		
BOWLING: Gough 16-6-38-2; Hartley 22-7-32-4; White 5-1-12-0; Silverwood 13-5-60-2; Stamp 7-2-23-0; Seven 6-2-40-2; Vaughan 1-0-4-0		
Umpires: D J Constant and T E Jessy		
Leicestershire v Worcestershire		
LEICESTERSHIRE (third day of four): Leicestershire (249) beat Worcestershire (2) by an innings and 180 runs		
LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings 658 for 8 dec (A Habib 215, J J Whitaker 168, D L Maddy 63, P V Simmons 51)		
WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 155 (D J Mills 4 for 37)		
Second innings		
T S Curtis c Smith b Mulhally	5	
W P C Weston b Wiles	40	
K K Langworthy c Neeson b Mills	4	
G A Hick c Simmons b Mills	4	
G A Hick c Simmons b Mills	4	
M Moody b Mulhally	104	
D A Eastwood c Neeson b Parsons	127	
R C Spang c Neeson b Simmons	31	
S G Law c Eastham b Patel	36	
15 J Hinch b Wiles	50	
P A Thomas b Mulhally	11	
A Sheehy not out	34	
Extras (lb 11, nb 2, nb 2)	25	
Total (11 wickets down)	359	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-26, 3-36, 4-157, 5-226, 6-220, 7-234, 8-328, 9-328		
BOWLING: Mills 22-4-67-2; Mulhally 22-5-40-3; Parsons 10-1-32-0; Simmons 14-3-47-1; Wiles 16-1-64-2; Simmons 7-2-18-2		
Umpires: A Clarkson and P Wile		
Essex v Kent		
ILFORD (third day of four): Essex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 173 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Kent		
KENT: First innings 350 (C L Hooper 165, S A Marsh 127, G R Cowdrey 111; P M Such 5 for 15)		
Second innings		
G A Gooch c Hooper b Eastham	53	
N Hussain b Patel	3	
S Law not out	4	
Extras (lb 4, nb 4)	111	
Total (2 wickets down)	111	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-32, 4-43, 5-116, 6-117, 7-119, 8-185, 9-196		
BOWLING: Gooch 20-6-54-5; Bates 23-4-57-5; Foster 11-1-37-0; Bates 12-7-27-0		
Umpires: M J Kilian and A A Jones		
Durham v Yorkshire		
CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Yorkshire (226) beat Durham (5) by 144 runs		
YORKSHIRE: First innings 335 (M G Bevan 90, R D Stamp 65; S J E Brown 4 for 52)		
Second innings		
A McGrath c Daley b Brown	27	
M P Vaughan b Brown	50	
D Bates b Bates	51	
M G Bevan b Brown	51	
C White c Scott b Bates	15	
R J Blakey c Scott b Brown	40	
A C Morris c Boffin b Bates	40	
D Gough c Scott b Brown	40	
P J Hartley b Bates	38	
C E W Silverwood not out	14	
R D Stamp c Daley b Hooper	10	
Extras (lb 4, nb 1, w 1, nb 4)	10	
Total (10 wickets down)	210	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-32, 4-43, 5-116, 6-117, 7-119, 8-185, 9-196		
BOWLING: Gooch 20-6-54-5; Bates 23-4-57-5; Foster 11-1-37-0; Bates 12-7-27-0		
Umpires: M J Kilian and A A Jones		
Gloucestershire v Somerset		
BRISTOL (third day of four): Gloucestershire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 140 runs ahead of Somerset		
GLoucestershire: First innings 283 (T J G Hancock 88, R C Russell 65; S Lee 4 for 55)		
Second innings		
A J Wright c Turner b Cardick	17	
P D Bowser c Russell b Walsh	31	
T W C Hancock c and b Shine	9	
A Symonds b Batty	47	
M W Alleyne b Batty	27	
R C Russell c Russell b Batty	0	
R J Cunniffe not out	0	
M C J Ball not out	2	
Extras (lb 1, nb 1)	2	
Total (6 wickets down)	138	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-50, 3-68, 4-127, 5-133, 6-133		
BOWLING: Cardick 14-4-56-1; Shane 13-0-43-2; Batty 7-2-17-2; Lee 6-2-18-1		
Somerset: First innings		
M N Lathwell c Davies b Walsh	49	
P D Bowser c Russell b Walsh	1	
A N Hayman c Hancock b Walsh	6	
R J Hardman not out	54	
P C L Hollway not out	14	
S Lee c sub b Smith	14	
R J Turner c Alleyne b Bell	50	
G D Rose c sub b Smith	7	
J D Bailey c Russell b Bell	4	
A R Cardick not out	0	
K J Shine c Alleyne b Smith	0	
Extras (lb 2, w 1, nb 6)	0	
Total (8 wickets down)	229	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-15, 3-27, 4-112, 5-139, 6-221, 7-252, 8-259, 9-259		
Warwickshire v Hampshire		
EDGBASTON (third day of four): Warwickshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, require 350 runs to beat Hampshire		
HAMPSHIRE: First innings 274 (S J Lacey 72, M J Morris 67; S J Lacey 4 for 57)		
Second innings		
M N Morris b Walsh	9	
S J Lacey c Khan b Smith	40	
R M Hancock c Khan b Smith	118	
G W Hulse b Giles	24	
P R Whitaker c Rose b Giles	37	
N W Hampshire not out	2	
G Keedy not out	17	
Extras (lb 5, nb 9, nb 10)	24	
Total (6 wickets down)	397	
Score at 120 overs 375-9		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-182, 3-233, 4-239, 5-258, 6-277, 7-288, 8-347, 9-347		
BOWLING: Camm 30-7-95-2; Pennington 27-5-104-2; Pickett 21-4-74-3; Allard 14-15-33-3; Bates 17-5-55-1		
Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 8, Lancashire 6		
Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Hame		
Oxford University v Northamptonshire		
THE PARKS (first day of three): Oxford University drew with Northamptonshire		
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First innings 335 for 2 dec (R R Montgomery 128, D J Roberts 72, M B Loye 67 not out, T C Wallen 55 not out)		
Second innings		
A L Pennington b Thompson	7	
A L Pennington b Thompson	7	
J N Snipe c Jamali b Malik	64	
"HD" Riley not out	23	
Extras (lb 2, lb 1, w 1)	4	
Total (2 wickets down)	174	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-131		
BOWLING: D Pooey 10-2-29-0; Thompson 10-2-33-1; Malik 9-0-67-1; Malhotra 7-0-27-0; Khan 2-0-15-0		
Oxford University: First innings 258 for 7 dec (G Khan 88, J B Bailey 56, M E D Jarrett 50 not out)		
Umpires: R J Lacey and K E Palmer		

YOUR CHANCE TO FOLLOW THE CRICKET ACTION WITH SKY SPORTS

See England take on India at the Oval

The Times has joined with Sky Sports to give you the chance to win one of five pairs of tickets for the first day of the Texaco Trophy one-day international series between England and India at the Oval on Thursday May 23. The match, which will be covered live on Sky Sports, is the first meeting of these two old rivals since India last toured in 1990.

Our first prize winner will also receive a fully installed state of the art Pace MSS 1000 satellite system with Dolby Surround sound so you can follow Sky Sports' year-round cricket action.

For your chance to win a pair of tickets and a satellite system answer the following question and phone your answer to our competition hotline, below.

In which year did India last tour England?

The first five names selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight will win the prizes.

Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL OUR HOTLINE 0891 40 50 15

Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times

Heat is on for British competitors

Edwards discovers uncomfortable truth about Atlanta

FROM DAVID POWELL IN ATLANTA

THE locals here are fond of saying: "You have a good day," but Jonathan Edwards did not follow their instructions. He had a pig of a day. He won, but nothing else went right.

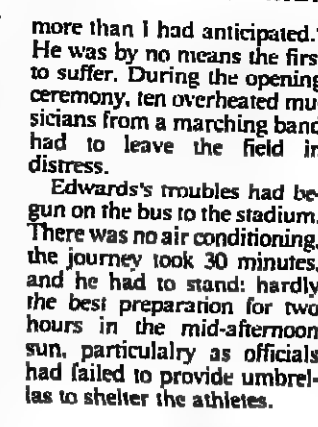
Edwards's experience at the grand prix meeting to mark the opening of the Centennial Olympic Stadium on Saturday should concern every potential member of the Great Britain team for the Games in July. On a day when the temperature on the track reached 112F, Edwards, the triple jump world champion and world-record holder, could only manage three of his permitted six jumps, the heat inducing severe cramps.

It was his first competition of the year, but he has enjoyed a luxury rare among prospective British Olympians: thorough acclimatisation. He came here after 11 weeks in Florida, sometimes in temperatures in the low 90s, but left saying he would be seeking expert advice on how to keep hydrated.

"Maybe I did not drink enough," he said. "I was burning up a lot of nervous energy and it took a lot of water out of my system, much more than I had anticipated."

He was by no means the first to suffer. During the opening ceremony, ten overheated musicians from a marching band had to leave the field in distress.

Edwards's troubles had begun on the bus to the stadium. There was no air conditioning, the journey took 30 minutes, and he had to stand: hardly the best preparation for two hours in the mid-afternoon sun, particularly as officials had failed to provide umbrellas to shelter the athletes.



Edwards seeking advice

"In the second round, I pushed off to start my run and could feel my left calf cramp, then it eased off," he said. "In the third round both my calves were cramping the whole way down the run-up."

After failing to improve on his second-round jump of 17.59 metres, which was wind-assisted, he watched anxiously to see whether anybody would go further. Nobody did and Edwards, after winning all 14 of his competitions last season, was on the victory trail again.

"I did not enjoy it," he said. "Technically, I was very, very poor. The first two [take-offs] were well off the board. I saw my 17.59 on the screen [in the stadium] and it was pretty horrible. All the things I have tried to work on were not there. My double-arm action was nowhere to be seen."

Edwards had approached the meeting anxious to know whether the brilliance he achieved in 1995, and which he could not explain, might disappear as inexplicably as it presented itself. Though he was not close to his world record of 18.29 metres, he exceeded six of his winning jumps from last year.

That was no consolation. "This was my first competition, and I am pleased it is out of the way, but it poses as many questions as it answers," he said.

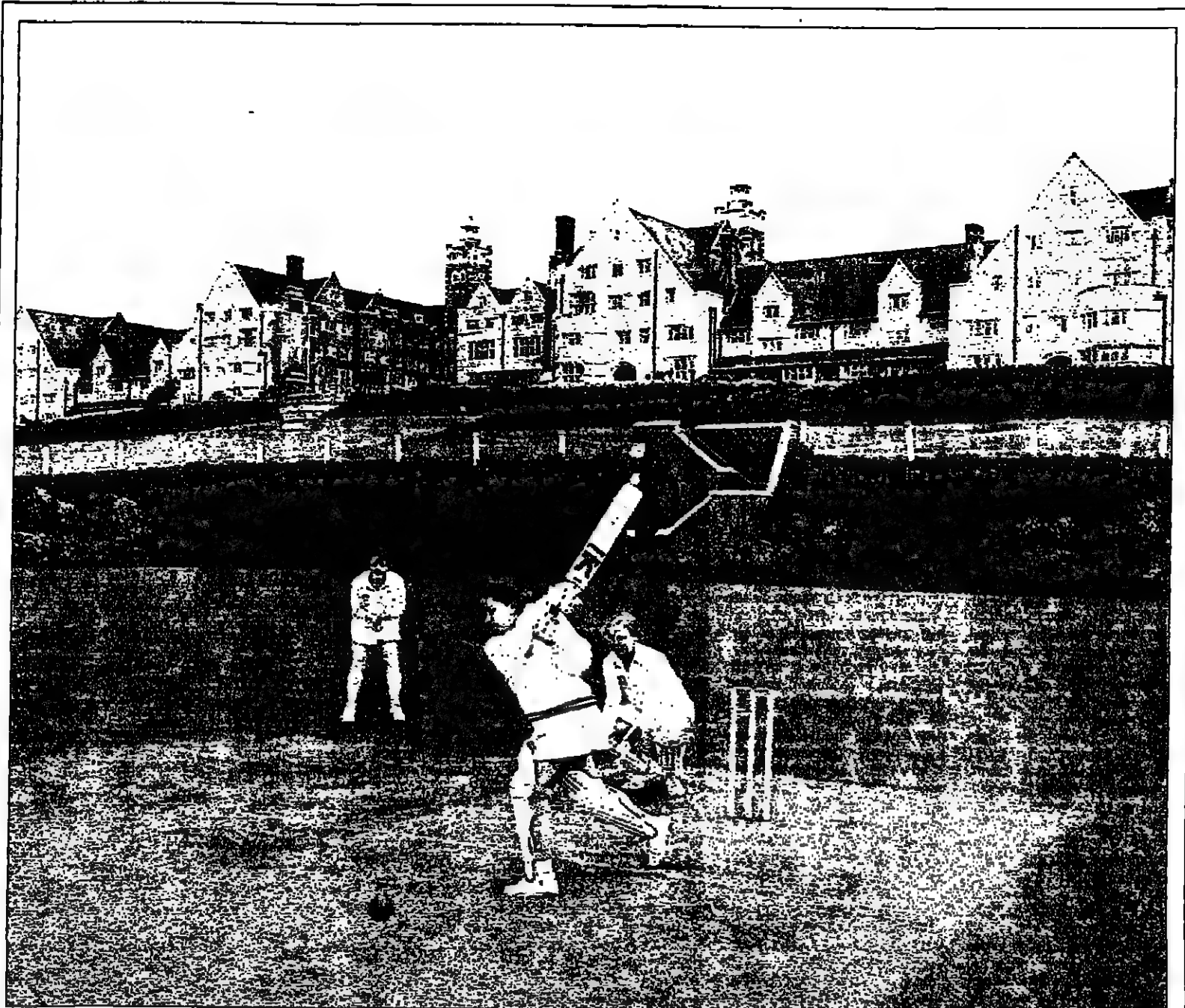
If Edwards was downcast, Carl Lewis was beaming. Lewis, the winner of eight Olympic gold medals, indicated he should avoid the ignominy of 1992, when he failed to qualify for the United States Olympic team in the 100 metres. His 9.94sec for second place behind Dennis Mitchell was his best race since he set a world record in the final of the 1991 world championships in Tokyo.

Lewis, 34, said: "I feel like my old self again." He would have won had he not turned his head to look across at the finish, but he still beat Donovan Bailey, the world champion.

Mitchell recorded 9.93sec and, although the times were recorded as wind-assisted, the 2.1 metres-per-second reading only narrowly exceeded the legal limit of 2.0. With Gwen Torrence running a legal 10.85sec to win the women's 100 metres and Michael Johnson taking the 200 metres in a legal 19.83sec, the buzz began that the Olympics could become a world-record feast. "It is a great track, just soft enough, just hard enough," Johnson said.

Allen Johnson, the 110 metres hurdles world champion, suggested that it was "probably the fastest track in the world," and the middle-distance runners shared the enthusiasm of the sprinters. "It is incredibly fast," Steve Holman, who gave Nouredine Morceli a close race in the mile, said.

The worrying aspect is that one end of the stadium offers little weather protection: record times and jumps could be ruled illegal because of strong wind readings.



Feminine finesse was abandoned in favour of an uncomplicated blow in this game in front of the school. Photograph: Graham Morris

Sanderson targets Olympic medal

TESSA SANDERSON is savouring the prospect of a record-equalling sixth Olympic Games. Sanderson, 40, improved on the javelin qualifying standard for Atlanta of 60 metres three times in the International Games at Bedford on Saturday and now believes that she is capable of winning an Olympic medal, 12 years after striking gold in Los Angeles.

"This was a tester, to get the fright out of the way," Sanderson said after winning with a throw of 60.64 metres in bitterly cold conditions. "I've been out of athletics for such a long time and my mind was going through it."

"What pleased me most was that I was able to throw consistently, despite the conditions. I can now work towards getting through the qualifying in Atlanta. And once I reach the final, I should perform. I'll be looking at a medal. I don't know which one, but come July I hope to be throwing 68 or 69 metres."

Sanderson, tempted out of retirement by the challenge of raising £1 million for the Children in Hospital charity, should have no problem at the Great Britain trials next month because she threw further than any Briton managed last year.

"There are still things to be ironed out," she said. "I need control of speed down the runway and to get that snap at the end. But the technique is starting to come back. You never lose the art of throwing a javelin when you've been at the highest level."

Sanderson has earned a return to the Britain team for the European Cup in Madrid on June 1, alongside Sally Gunnell, who was satisfied with her first race of the season, a 400 metres victory in 52.96sec. Gunnell, fully recovered from the heel injury that ruled her out last season, said: "It's good to get the first one under my belt. I'm always nervous. But in the conditions the time wasn't bad."

Gunnell, who defends the 400 metres hurdles title in Atlanta, will have her first race over the barriers for 20 months in Germany on Saturday.

Jon Ridgeon moved to the top of this season's 400 metres hurdles British rankings when finishing runner-up to the world championship silver medal-winner, Samuel Matete, at the European men's champion clubs cup, in Istanbul on Saturday. Ridgeon, representing Belgrave Harriers, finished two metres behind the Zambian in a time of 50.07sec. He is favourite to secure the 400 metres berth in the Britain team for the European Cup in Madrid.



Sanderson: back to form

Where willow-patterns still cast a spell

Ivo Tennant finds that cricket remains popular at Roedean despite the distractions afforded by A-level examinations

ROEDEAN is probably the most famous school for girls in the world. A Victorian fortress, cement-rendered not against pesky intruders but sea fests, it stands imperiously on a Sussex cliff top that affords a sweeping view of a markedly well-rolled ground and the English Channel beyond. Cricket, to the evident delight of many of the girls, remains an integral part of the curriculum.

The school was founded on the principle that its girls should have the same opportunities as their brothers and, although this may not be the case in the garden at home — they are still given all too few opportunities to bat — the philosophy prevails today.

Cricket, among numerous other sports, has always been played at Roedean and this summer the first XI have been beaten only once and managed to hold a Lord's and Commons XI to a draw. The crucial match will come at the end of the term when the fathers will be seeking to avenge a defeat last year. It could not be prevented even by John Barclay, a former

captain of Sussex and the England assistant manager in the winter.

So keen on the game is the school's captain, Alison Waldron, that she admits she has probably devoted too much time to it at the expense of her studies.

Her place at Oxford is conditional on her getting two As and one B in her A-level grades, which was why she hurried off to revision after a brief practice session last Friday. "Women's cricket does not receive enough publicity, considering England are the world champions," she said.

But do not imagine that the admissions tutors are unsympathetic. "I spent my entire interview at Oxford talking about cricket," Alice Greenwell, the Roedean vice-captain, said.

How good is the standard at Roedean? "It is high, relative to other schools," Andrew England, the head of



chemistry and master in charge of cricket, said. "When compared to the county side, not so good. This is a school which perhaps does not reach excellence in any one sport, but each house has its own cricket team, which means 44 girls play the game. More are becoming interested since the Sussex Women's Cricket Association installed a bowling machine in our grounds at the beginning of term."

Some people think this is a school for children of rich

parents but we have been accepted onto the Assisted Places Scheme and hope some local girls who are good at sport will be coming here. They can only strengthen what, in three years' time, will be a very strong first XI.

"Some of the staff think the girls should be playing tennis instead of cricket, even though it is not an obligatory sport, and we no longer play pub sides following one or two incidents after play," said Marshall, who, having grown up in Blackpool, wanted to teach at a school close to the sea and hence was not too concerned whether it was one for girls or boys.

Ann Longley, the headmistress, is taking to the game, if not the hardness of the ball after the staff match.

Increasing academic pressures mean that most matches are played in the early evening, lasting for 20 or 25 overs a side. There are 14 fixtures in addition to house matches, including two against boys' prep schools. The essential difference is that girls, having smaller hands, use a 5oz ball and tend not to have as much equipment as the boys.

Some girls play in trousers but the majority in skirts. Helmets are worn only at county level.

Playing against boys tends to make the girls at Roedean more competitive. The wicket-keeper, Annabel Fletcher, went on a coaching course over Easter and upset some of her friends with her remarks when she returned to school. "But the boys taught me this," she protested.

Georgina Barclay, who is also a talented tennis player — she played in the Sussex under-18 county cup in February — has had the benefit of meeting the likes of Mike Atherton through her father. "My bowling did benefit from a few tips," she said.

It is half a century since an England cricketer was schooled at Roedean, but their traditions and enthusiasm are such that nurturing another is not a pipedream.

England blame absentees

BY RICHARD EATON

CIRO CINIGLIO, the manager of the England badminton team, has criticised the deliberate absence of three of his leading players from the side beaten 4-1 by Denmark in their world team finals match in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Julie Bradbury, Joanne Wright and Simon Archer remained at home to prepare for the Olympic Games in nine weeks. Ciniglio believes England might otherwise have won, putting them in contention for a Uber Cup medal. Nonetheless, the weakened side won the second singles, thanks to a fine 9-12, 11-5, 11-4 victory for Alison Humby over the world No 24, Anne Sondergaard. The top doubles also went the full distance, thanks to the efforts of Gillian Gowers and Joanne Muggeridge.

"It's a shame — with our best players we might have won both doubles and could then have had a chance of a medal," Ciniglio said. He was supported by Morten Frost, his Danish opposite number and a four-time All-England champion.

"We also have one or two who didn't want to come. If they hadn't they would not be going to the Olympics," Frost said. "Some players seem to forget how much money national associations have spent on getting them to places where they win prize-money. It used to be give and take — now it's take and take."

The England women have lost one and won one and their fate will be decided by the match against Korea today. The England men, meanwhile, lost 5-0 to China yesterday and have two defeats in the Thomas Cup.

Gales sweep Hawk to convincing win

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

GOING to windward at night in the teeth of a 30-knot northeasterly gale turned the Myth of Malham race, the Royal Ocean Racing Club's (RORC) second offshore event of the year, into a gruelling but thrilling test of stamina for crews and equipment.

Twenty of the 30 starters who set off from Cowes on Friday night failed to complete the 137-mile course to Brighton marina. Most of them found the going too much after the fleet rounded EC2 buoy and faced up to a 60-mile leg into winds that never dropped below 25 knots.

The race, which had begun with a reassuringly tame forecast predicting a northeasterly force 4, thus became, in the words of one race official, "a bitterly cold, wet and unpleasant" affair. Some yachts retired with gear failure, others because skippers with no chance of being among the spoils decided enough was enough.

Alan Green, the director of racing at RORC, said: "It was tough and cold, but it wasn't a very long race. It is good to have a sharp blast every now and then to remind people that when they go offshore it can be like this."

After its strong performance in the Cervantes Trophy race earlier this month, Nigel Bramwell's Bashford/Howison 41, Hawk, driven by David Bedford, took the Myth of Malham Cup for first overall on Channel Handicap. Hawk was also first under IMS. The winner of Channel Class 2 was the French yacht, CNC Lebrun, with Tom and Vicky Jackson and the redoubtable Sunstone first in Class 3.

The race, which saw speeds

of up to 20 knots from the leading yachts on the way to EC2 from the eastern Solent, was the first organised by RORC to admit multihulls. Four of the five listed, including two French-owned boats, turned up and one — *Hasty Lady* — made it to Brighton.

Meanwhile, in the final of the Brut Royal Lynton Cup on Saturday, the UK's only Grade 1-listed match race regatta, the New Zealander, Russell Coutts, swept away the challenge of Britain's Chris Law with three straight wins to take the title in style.

In the recent history of the event, which this year saw a particularly strong field, no one has managed to get through the entire competition without a single defeat. Coutts and his *Team New Zealand* crew of Simon Daubney, Warwick Fleury and Brad Butterworth, managed this with 16 straight victories.

Coutts, who defeated Law convincingly — even completing a penalty in the third race as he crossed the finish line — must now be considered a strong contender to claim the \$250,000 prize for the first skipper to win any three of the five match race events in the Brut series. His next chance will come at the Brut Cup of San Francisco later this month. "We want the money — why else do you think we're sailing in six degrees and driving rain?" Coutts said.

The American, Ed Baird, the present world match-racing champion, took third place with a 2-0 win in the semi-final sail-off against Peter Holmberg, of the US Virgin Islands. The Frenchman, Thierry Peponnet, was fifth with Markus Wieser, of Germany, sixth.

Bridge Challenge deadline extended until end of July

BY ROBERT WRIGHT

ENTRIES for *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, the largest bridge tournament staged in the United Kingdom, continue to flood in, but there is still time for heats to be organised, with the deadline having been extended to July 30.

The competition has caught the imagination of the nation's bridge players, both social and serious, with heats being staged across the land. One of the highest profile heats, at The Lords and Commons, will now take place on Friday, July 5, and will be overseen by the organiser of The Challenge, David Price, the former British captain.

More than 2,000 pairs have already entered in search of a share of the £21,000 prize fund in the four categories — one expert and three non-expert — but there are now even more incentives to join in.

In response to requests from many heat organisers, the rules of The Challenge have been amended so that they can participate in their own heats.



Robert Sheehan

receive a Jarvis Hotels "cheque book", entitling them to discounts on the cost of Jarvis's facilities, including a ten per cent reduction on the normal cost of attending any one of their series of bridge weekends.

Three pairs who have qualified for the area finals of The Challenge will receive two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast for two at any Jarvis Hotel.

For the benefit of those who wish to participate in The Challenge, but whose usual club is not holding a heat, the organisers have created two special heats to be held at the Jarvis Embassy Hotel in London on Sunday, June 9, and at the Jarvis Piccadilly Hotel in Manchester on Sunday, June 2.

Any pair may compete in these heats, subject to booking through The Challenge office by telephone on 0181 942 9506, fax on 0181 942 9569, or by writing to *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, Chicago Bridge Promotions, Briarcliff Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Rugby's elite give peace a chance

Ireland XV.....38
Barbarians.....70

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THE game at Lansdowne Road on Saturday was, as Terry Neill put it, "another small step on the road to peace", then the scoreline is irrelevant. The purpose was to use rugby as a vehicle — as it has been so often in Ireland — for co-operation and to advance the peace process. In that respect it was a remarkable day, even if the Ireland XV may have ended it less than completely at peace with themselves.

Proceeds from the game will go to the cross-border organisations, the Ireland Funds and Co-operation North, of which Neill is the chairman. More than that, though, was the moving reception given by 35,000 to the three children whose lives have been touched by bombing outrages but who were presented to the two teams as symbols of hope for the future.

Sportsmen frequently fail to come across as sentimentalists but Dean Richards, that great hulk of English policeman, spoke for all when he acknowledged that the occasion was all about. When the children came out it brought home exactly what the occasion was and I hope it will do some good. I'm very proud to have been asked.

Rugby's politicians may be finding new and perverse ways of falling out with each other but those who play the game continue to do it credit. The accolades deservedly went to Francois Pienaar and David

Campese who, though injured, travelled from South Africa and Australia respectively as tribute to the occasion, but no Barbarian was more popular than Richards as the players took a lap of honour and displayed the match trophy, a dove of peace sculpted from gun shells.

"The way rugby is structured in Ireland, we are able to put aside differences and play as a team," Niall Hogan, the Ireland captain, said. "This has meant an awful lot to us and we are happy to have taken part." From a blinkered sporting point of view, the sad aspect of Hogan's team was that the Barbarians had scored four tries before the Irish woke up and injected some urgency into their play.

It also brought home the gap between Ireland's domestic standards and those elsewhere. Johan Roux and Steven Bapho are not first choices in South Africa or New Zealand but their admirable play at half back allowed the Barbarians to give full rein to their attacking potential. The length of Bapho's passing, in particular, opened up the field and exposed the Ireland tackling as frail in the extreme.

Nor was the loss of their captain, Philip de Gier, any relief to Ireland since it brought on one of the most improved of the England youngsters, Will Greenwood. However, the painful blow de Gier suffered on his knee cap may prevent him from playing for Bath in the match with Wigan at Twickenham on Saturday which, given Jeremy Guscott's aversion to the match, will leave them short in midfield.

The Barbarians led 35-14 at the interval and doubled their



Johns, of Ireland, hands off Ojomoh, the Barbarians flank forward, in Dublin

tally, aided by Jonathan Callard's remorselessly accurate kicking. Ireland, lured far too early into a fast-and-loose game that they were not best equipped to play, at least had the consolation of encouraging performances from James Topping and Paul Flavin and the pleasure of sharing the field with rugby legends. **SCORES:** Ireland XV: Times Captain (2), Henderson, Wilson, Burke, Topping, Conventions (4), Barbarians: Times Underwood (2), Redman, Roux, de Gier, de Gier, Callard, Greenwood, Jarvis, Callard (10), Ireland XV: 35 (10), Barbarians: 14 (4). **GOALS:** Ireland XV: Henderson (3), Burke (2), Topping (2), Conventions (2), Barbarians: Underwood (2), Redman (2), Roux (2), de Gier (2), Callard (2). **TRYES:** Ireland XV: Henderson (3), Burke (2), Topping (2), Conventions (2), Barbarians: Underwood (2), Redman (2), Roux (2), de Gier (2), Callard (2). **CONVERSIONS:** Ireland XV: Henderson (3), Burke (2), Topping (2), Conventions (2), Barbarians: Underwood (2), Redman (2), Roux (2), de Gier (2), Callard (2). **PENALTIES:** Ireland XV: Henderson (3), Burke (2), Topping (2), Conventions (2), Barbarians: Underwood (2), Redman (2), Roux (2), de Gier (2), Callard (2). **REPLACEMENTS:** Ireland XV: Henderson (3), Burke (2), Topping (2), Conventions (2), Barbarians: Underwood (2), Redman (2), Roux (2), de Gier (2), Callard (2). **REFEREE:** D. B. Evans (Wales).

WINDSOR

THUNDERER
6.15 Bagshot, 6.45 Golden Fact, 7.15 Wildwood Flower, 7.45 Rat Farm, 8.15 Cherry Blossom, 8.45 Classy Chief.

The Times Private Handicap's top rating:
7.15 WILDWOOD FLOWER.

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.15 PORTLAND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING CLAIMING STAKES (2,200: 1m 67yd) (20 runners)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	12	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	13	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	14	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	15	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	16	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	17	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	18	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
12	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	19	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
13	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	20	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

6.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND OASIS MILKMAID VILLAGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,420: 5f 10yd) (7)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

7.15 EVENING STANDARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,271: 5f 10yd) (7)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

7.45 CUP WEEKLY STAR HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,266: 1m 31 2/3yd) (11)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

8.15 MAURE CLARE CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,420: 5f 10yd) (4)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

8.45 ROYAL WINDSOR MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,420: 5f 10yd) (19)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	12	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	13	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	14	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
12	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	15	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
13	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	16	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
14	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	17	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
15	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	18	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
16	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	19	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
6.30 Bayford Thurst, 7.00 Lord Advocate, 7.30 Lord Of The Manor, 8.00 Absolute Ruler, 8.30 The Barnsley Belle, 9.00 DON PEPE (nap).

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.30 MAY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,517: 5f) (5 runners)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

7.00 EAST LOTHIAN HANDICAP (2,707: 1m 31 2/3yd) (15)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	12	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
10	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	13	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
11	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	14	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
12	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	15	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

7.30 LEVENHALL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,517: 1m 31 2/3yd) (4)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

Phar Too Touchy closes on title

PHAR TOO TOUCHY is almost past the post in the sixth time when taking the ladies' open at the same meeting, can beat Phar Too Touchy to the Grand Mariner Trophy. To do so he would need to win this Saturday and next Monday, and then again at meetings on the final two weekends of the season.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.00 Myland, 2.30 The Mine Captain, 3.00 Scarba, 3.30 Gorse Farm Lunch, 4.00 Northern Trial, 4.30 Red Indian, 5.00 Suffolk Girl.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.00 HASTINGS NOVICES CHASE (2,264: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	8	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	9	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

2.30 TRAFALGAR HANDICAP CHASE (2,421: 2m 41 1/2yd) (7 runners)

1	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
2	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	5	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
3	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	6	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10
4	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10	7	100-000	LAURENCE 14 (D.F.) J. Houghton 9-11-10

3.00 NASEBY HANDICAP HURDLE (2,193: 2m 41 1/2yd) (10)

(F2.193: 2m 41 11y0d) (10)								
1	430P	SCARBERRY RUN 20 (D.S.)	G Huardts	11-12-9	A Dabbin			
2	20-6	20-6 (R.F.S.)	Jefferson	8-11-13	— R Davis			
3	26B	RED JAM JAY 7 (F)	S Bell	11-1-4	N Smith			
4	0063	WEATHER ALERT 14 (R.F.G.)	K Morgan	5-11-4	A S South			
5	4200	SUPERHID 17 (R)	C Cange	3-10-10	— R Preston 12			
6	8495	HEART OF SOATH 12 (D.G.S.)	R Llewellyn	7-10-10	— W Llewellyn			
7	0482	HEART OF SOATH 12 (D.G.S.)	R Llewellyn	7-10-10	— W Llewellyn			
8	0482	HEART OF SOATH 12 (D.G.S.)	R Llewellyn	7-10-10	— W Llewellyn			
9	0420	HEATHWAYS BOY 107 (C.D.F.S.)	R Holszner	6-10-4	S Wyne			
10	5740	GREEN'S SEAGO 187 (C.D.F.S.)	J A Harris	8-10-3	—			
7 December 1931								
3-1	Scarb	5-1	Knazat	Heart of Soath	7-1	Gumzian	Weather Alert	8-1

Cecil issues encouraging bulletin on progress of Derby challenger

Dushyantor treads road to recovery

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY CECIL was in buoyant mood yesterday as he confirmed that Dushyantor, his leading Derby hope, is making a good recovery from the infection that flared up after the Dante Stakes at York last Wednesday. The colt could resume cantering today.

"He's fine and gradually getting back into normal exercise," Cecil said. "Everything is under control and he will be back tomorrow or on Tuesday, and probably work at the weekend."

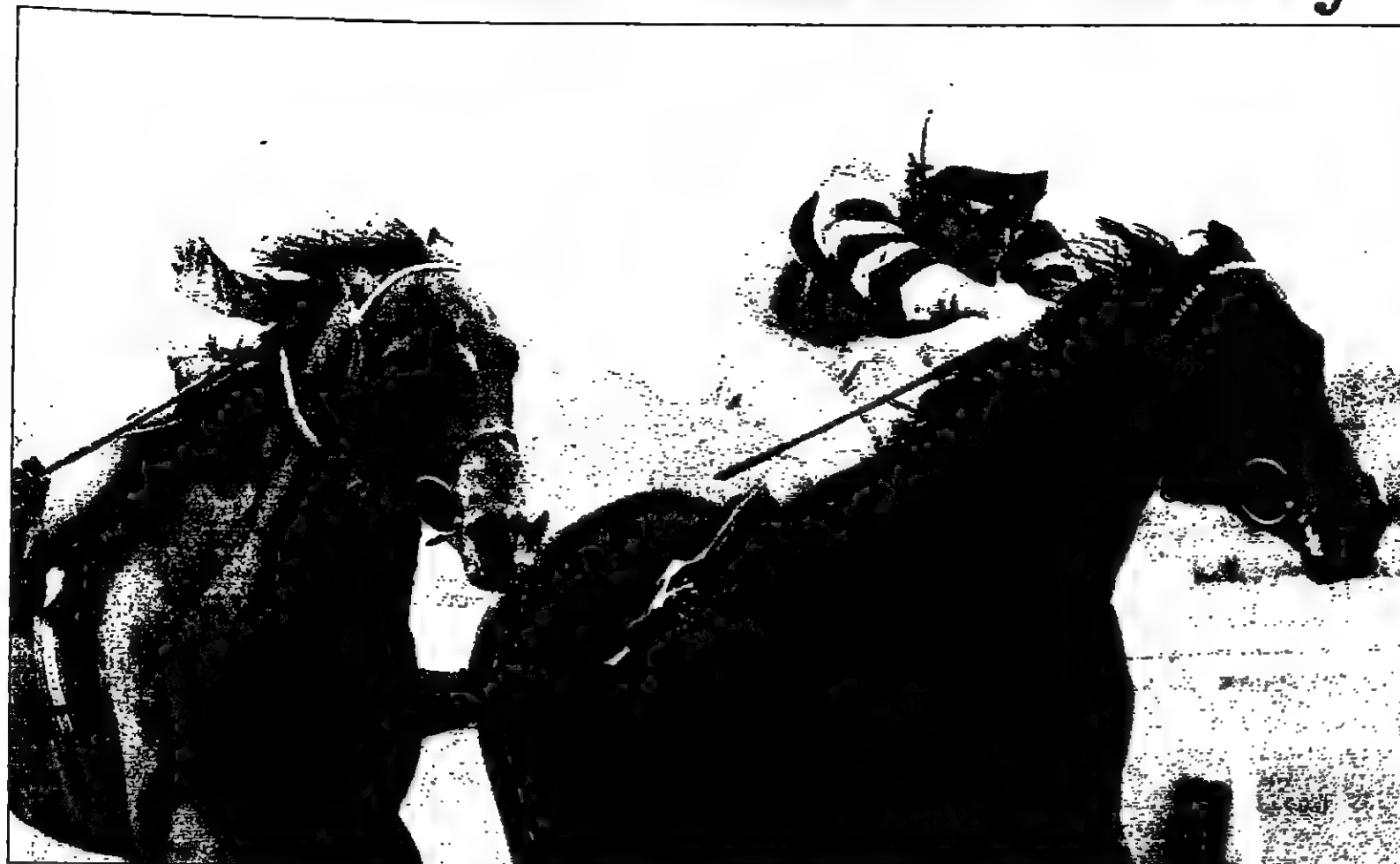
Cecil, who also plans to run Storm Trooper in the Derby, believes the Khalid Abdulla-owned colt may have been

Willie Carson was banned for seven days for failing to ride out Kamari, the odds-on favourite, and being caught on the line by Major Dundee in the F T Everard & Sons Maiden Stakes at Lingfield Park on Saturday evening. He is suspended from May 27 to June 1 inclusive and May 3

carrying the start of the infection when he finished a good second to Glory Of Dancer in last week's classic trial. However, he is more than hopeful the half-brother to Commandeer in Chief, the 1993 Derby winner, will make giant strides between now and June 8.

"He's not there yet and I have always said the next three weeks are important. I could see him improving a lot, in the same way as his half-brother. He will take off because we have been nursing him along until now because of his quarter-cracks and the hard ground."

"Now that he has had a little bit of experience of racing and the rain has arrived, he should be a much better horse if I can



Xenophon Of Cunaxa, right, holds off Zyo at Newbury yesterday but, after a stewards' inquiry, was placed second. Photograph: Julian Herbert

work him seriously between now and the Derby."

Despite his proven stamina, Dushyantor was held up at the rear of the field during the first half of the Dante Stakes, which was slowly run and, interestingly, Cecil admitted it was "a complete mess up".

The ten-times champion trainer plans to break the habit of a lifetime and bet in earnest with a bookmaker at Royal Ascot—in an attempt to help a charity. Unlike many of his fellow trainers, Cecil is not

a punter but he intends to wager up to £2,000, donated by owners and friends, with Victor Chandler, the leading independent race bookmaker. Any profits will go to Children In Crisis.

"I shall bet on all four days during the Royal meeting and, I hope, a decent sum of money will go to the charity. I have got some people to help me with the form and it will be done seriously," he said.

Another horse to have been at the centre of an injury scare,

Bijou D'Inde, remains on course for the Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh on Sunday. Mark Johnston, his trainer, was at Longchamp yesterday but his wife, Deirdre, reported that the colt's sore near-fore foot was nothing more than a niggling annoyance to an otherwise smooth preparation.

"This injury never put his participation in the race in doubt," she said. "He definitely runs. All it meant was that he didn't gallop on Saturday

when we wanted him to." Bijou D'Inde was a short head and a head third to Mark Of Esteem and Even Top in the 2,000 Guineas.

Johnston's trip to Paris was not in vain as Double Eclipse landed his second successive group race victory. Ridden by Jason Weaver, Double Eclipse made all the running to deny Nononito by three-quarters of a length in the group two Prix Vicomtesse Vigier.

The André Fabre-trained Luna Wells strengthened her

Oaks claims when easily beating her stable companion, Miss Tahiti, by 1½ lengths in the group one Prix Saint-Alary. It was the fifth year in succession that Fabre had landed the prize and Luna Wells is now 8-1 (from 10-1) for Epsom with Ladbrokes.

However, connections were not prepared to commit themselves to a possible objective.

Betting revival points way to brighter future

For economists, those little green shoots that hint at recovery are the key. Politicians in power seek the elusive feel-good factor. At long last, dare racing point to its own ripple of resurgence—or at least a feel-better factor?

After months of doom and gloom, spearheaded by the negative effect of the National Lottery on betting turnover, there are tell-tale signs of happier times ahead. And before you begin to think that napping a few winners, having tipped 18 consecutive losers (for which apologies all round), has scrambled the few remaining grey cells possessed by your correspondent, let me tell you the source of such encouragement. A bookmaker.

Not just any old bookmaker. In fact, the biggest in the land, Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, said yesterday: "We view the future with some optimism and we will be putting plenty of resources behind that optimism."

The reason for the upbeat message is simple. Punters are again wanting to bet on the horses. A Flat season which threatened to have odds-on favourites for the first two classics was transformed by Alhaarth's defeat at the Craven meeting. Suddenly the 2,000 Guineas was an open race which attracted enormous betting interest, which spilled over to the 1,000 Guineas, won in the bravest style by Bosra Sham. The two races appear to have acted as a catalyst for punters.

A subtle realignment of the fixture list has helped. And there is just a hint that some people may be tiring of the Lottery or scratch cards and preferring to pit their wits, once more, against the "old enemy".

"The 2,000 Guineas was a tremendous race. Instead of having a 5-2 on favourite with few challengers, everybody wanted to run. It buoyed everybody up and it has carried on from there. Turnover has increased and things seem to be looking up," Dillon added.

All of which brings us to the Derby. A year ago the field was headed by a 6-4 favourite ridden by a French jockey whose name meant nothing to most people,

trained by a Frenchman who could never be described as exuberant. This year, there is every chance that two or three horses in a big field could well be vying for favouritism at around 5-1.

The divergence of opinion on the fancied runners for the world's most prestigious Flat race is already considerable and can only enhance betting interest in the contest. For example, John Dunlop, who knows more than most about the ability of a horse to stay a given distance, disagrees with most breeding pundits and believes that Mark Of Esteem, the 2,000 Guineas winner, has every chance of staying 12 furlongs. And is not the 2,000 Guineas supposed to be the best Derby trial of all?

Aside from the horses, the personalities in this year's race are fascinating. In

RICHARD EVANS



Racing commentary

Newmarket, it is fast becoming the Upstairs Downstairs Derby as Henry Cecil and Michael Stoute, between them champion trainers for 14 of the past 20 years, face the challenge of Mark Tompkins and Paul Kelleway from the other side of the street. Add to that Michael Tabor, the owner of Dr Massini and Cockney boy made good, and Frankie Dettori, who has replaced Lester Piggott as the housewives' choice, and the better factor seems justified.

Elections are taking place for four vacancies in the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA) council. Ten candidates have lined up and, while not wishing to blight anyone's chances by suggesting people should vote for me, I believe that Chris Brasher, Jim Furlong, Mary Hamble and Peter Savill could bring some much needed common sense to ROA proceedings.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Newbury

2.00 (1m) 1. AMAR AJEES (J. Red, 9-1); 2. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 3. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 4. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 5. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 6. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 7. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 8. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 9. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 10. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 11. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 12. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 13. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 14. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 15. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 16. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 17. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 18. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 19. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 20. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 21. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 22. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 23. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 24. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 25. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 26. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 27. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 28. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 29. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 30. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 31. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 32. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 33. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 34. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 35. Admiral (J. Red, 10-1); 36. Admiral (J. 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THE GREATEST 4

TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight is the last opportunity to vote for The Greatest on Channel 4, before the final summary and announcement of the winner on Monday May 27. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

As you will know by now, the main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely - we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports - but The Greatest will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the eleventh show in the 12-part series. Part 1 showed how the 20 sportsmen and women were shortlisted. The cases for Jackie Stewart, Lizard Christie, Bobby Moore, Torvill and Dean, Mary Rand, Ian Botham, Barry John, Nick Faldo, Steve Ovett, Bobby Charlton, Lester Piggott, Steven Redgrave, Kenny Dalglish, Denis Compton, Len Hutton, Sebastian Coe, Fred Perry and Daley Thompson of the 20 shortlisted have been stated. Each week two contenders are examined and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of Total Sport, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Barry McGuigan). Chairing the debate is Gordon Kennedy. Make sure you don't miss the final show on May, which will give the results and declare The Greatest.

The Greatest is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am.

The sporting heroes under examination tonight are Jimmy Wilde and George Best, and The Times sports writers give their appreciations to help your judgment.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

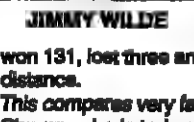


GEORGE BEST

In the first five of his ten years with Manchester United, George Best won two Football League championship medals, and the European Cup, scoring the key second goal in United's victory at Wembley, but that record, impressive enough in all conscience, does little to reveal his scoring ability. He will be remembered as El Beasle after his stunning contribution while still a teenager to United's 5-1 win over Benfica in the Stadium of Light, and as the first modern superstar footballer, for his affable wit. United's decline took him over. Even so he played 466 games, and scored 178 goals for United, a record most modern players would regard as representing a fully satisfactory career.

His tragedy was that at the height of his ability, United, the Holy Grail of the European Cup finally reached in 1968, were in decline and Northern Ireland were enduring a fallow period, so that he was never able to reap the rewards on the European and World stages that his talents demanded. After leaving United finally in 1974, he played in LA, returning for an Indian Summer with Fulham before the demons increasingly took over.

But before the decline, he thrilled a generation. He was perhaps the greatest British footballer of all time, certainly the most thrilling to watch, a player of sublime skills, courage, and pace. But above all, he had such perfect balance that David Weir, who saw every one of his 400 games for United, remembers above all his ability to go into a sliding tackle almost horizontal, come out with the ball at his feet and be up and away with the ball in one moment. Others remember dazzling goals or the ball skills which left more than one opponent as Paddy Grenand put it, with twisted blood as they attempted to stop him.



JIMMY WILDE

Jimmy Wilde is arguably the greatest British boxer of all time. His career spanned 12 years from 1911 to 1923. He became world flyweight champion at the age of 24 and reigned for seven years. What made this frail-looking Welshman from Quakers Yard, outside Merthyr Tydfil, unique was that he always boxed well below the weight of his opponents, usually at 10lb in a division with an 11lb limit. He also had an incredible 330 fights in 33 months against all comers. But his official record stands at 136 contests, of which he won 131, lost three and drew two; 99 of his wins were inside the distance.

This compares very favourably with the record of Julio Cesar Chavez, who is today one of the all-time greats with 96 contests, 96 wins, 78 of them inside the distance. No wonder Wilde was known as the Ghost with the Hammer in his hand, the Tyronestown Terror and the Mighty Atom. Nat Fleischer called him the greatest living fighting man of all time. Had he been boxing today, his punching power pound for pound would almost certainly have exceeded that of Mike Tyson.

Wilde became undisputed world champion in 1916 when he knocked out Zulu Kid of the United States, in 11 rounds. Wilde made one successful defence but then in 1923, at the age of 31, he met Pancho Villa, of the Philippines, and was stopped in seven rounds. The bout was described as one of the most stirring of all time. Wilde never boxed again. He died in 1969 at the age of 77.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

Achievement - for honours won and overall record
Dominance - for quality of opposition; longevity and domination of peers
Style - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image
Fortitude - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence
Impact - charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and The Times will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, The Greatest (Bodley, £14.99). At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call The Greatest phoneline, on 0891 66 55 44

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times. By post: complete The Times' entry form and send it to The Greatest Week 10, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
GEORGE BEST	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts
JIMMY WILDE	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts

Name: _____
Address: _____
Daytime telephone: _____
Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply.
☐ This entry card can be used to book a table at the restaurant.

Anna Foster talks to the men and one woman who rowed around the clock

ANDREW HARRISON



Keith Morris (foreground) with seven of the 10-strong Amex team who took the world indoor-rowing record

Speeding along without moving

A company sports club is rarely the setting for a new world record. An even less likely place is a prison gym. But at these sites the 24-hour indoor rowing record has been broken twice this year and a third challenge is about to be mounted.

For the employees of American Express and officers of Erlestoke Prison the battle has become as intense as the Oxford and Cambridge boat race. "I was very tired, nervous and hurting, and at times I felt like crying," says Andrew Hales, 30, a member of the 10-strong American Express team which holds the record.

In March the Amex team rowed round the clock and covered 392,840 metres, beating the record of 385,207 metres that had been set the previous month.

In indoor rowing you do not see any water. The records are set on Concept II indoor rowing machines, found in gyms and fitness centres up and down the country and used in Olympic training.

To live up to the exercise routines and set goals, Concept II, the world's leading manufacturer of the machines, started to publish records and encourage clubs to challenge them. The Amex team began training three months before their attempt. Fifteen hopefuls signed up for the ten places. They included a financial controller, a systems expert and a risk manager - only one had ever rowed competitively.

Trained by Keith Morris, the gym manager, the 13 men and two women rowed three days a week, building up stamina and speed. Competition for the places was fierce: only one of the women, Rose Wells, would be chosen, along with nine of the men.

In the final four weeks, Morris ran two dress rehearsals and the final man's place was decided on a difference of a metre. Muscles bulged and appetites exploded but all the rowers, in particular Wells, 32, lost weight with the extra exercise. Tension was high as the team members continued to work full time. "Social life was non-existent," says Hales. "All you did was work and row, work and row." Even on the day, the rowers worked before starting the marathon at 6.30pm.

moment if the team was on course to beat the record. Mike White, 34, says: "All the time you had to do that little bit extra in case someone else didn't make it."

By the early hours fatigue was setting in. With bodies wanting sleep, the rowers found it hard to stay motivated. "I felt so knackered I didn't think I could continue," says White. "But after midnight I turned on the radio and got a second wind." Sleeping bags littered the floor and a massager was on hand. Hales showered to stay feeling fresh and Wells tried to eat.

With colleagues cheering them on, the team beat the record at 6.04pm, with 26 minutes to spare. "It was my one and only chance of making it into the record books - and I did it," says Hales.

Within weeks, however, the team heard that Erlestoke Prison would put up a nat-

While Concept II publishes the records, companies and clubs organise and publicise their own events. Both Amex and Erlestoke sponsored their rows in aid of local charities and claimed a boost in employee morale.

Not least, a company can tell clients that a world record was broken in its own gym. Amex will have to decide whether to reform the team if its record is broken. Opinion is

divided. Hales claims too much pressure of work. White is definitely in and Wells is a maybe, depending on a knee injury. So far a core team of six has formed.

While Erlestoke poses the immediate threat, the Army also hopes to mount a challenge. Is there a record for the number of times a world record has been broken in one year? Surely that would make the Guinness Book of Records.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This is a hand from the Lords and Commons Bridge Match, held at the end of March. After Bridget Prentice for the Commons bid Six Spades she realised belatedly that her partner had shown only one ace. As she put down her hand she apologised for not being able to count to two. Hope she's not a Whip - could be awkward in these days of narrow majorities.

Game all	Dealer South	Aggregate scoring
♠ A K Q 6 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 ♣ J 8 7 6 4 2	♠ A 2 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ K J 8 4 3 2 ♣ K 5	♠ 10 7 6 ♥ A J 9 7 4 3 ♦ A Q 8 5 ♣ K Q J 8 5 4 3
S	W	N
4 S	Pass	4 NT (Blackwood)
5 D	Pass	6 S
All Pass		

Final contract: Six Spades doubled, by South. Lead: two of hearts

How do you think East should defend after winning the ace of hearts? In practice he returned a spade. But should he have tried to cash the ace of clubs? East can tell that South is likely to have twelve tricks if he has eight spades - he is known to have the ace of diamonds from his response to Blackwood, and if he lays down the ace of diamonds after drawing trumps he will have a marked finesse in that suit. Thus he is going to make eight spade tricks, a heart and three diamonds. What if South has only seven spades? Then if South's shape were 7-3-3-0, attempting to cash the ace of clubs fails, but a heart return would give East a ruff.

I don't think it is cast-iron, but as either an eight-card spade suit with South, or a seven-card suit with a singleton club,

is more likely than a hand with a club void, I would try the ace of clubs at trick two. At the table, after the spade return, South was so keen to get his club discard that, after drawing trumps, he neglected to lay down the ace of diamonds. He crossed immediately to the king of diamonds, and now had to lose a diamond trick.

For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORDWATCHING

By Philip Howard

NIMMING
a. A mythical Arcadia
b. Filtering
c. Too much, a surfeit

PEULVAN
a. A hearse
b. Advance skirmishers
c. A standing stone

NEOPHRON
a. A vulture
b. A Neo-Platonist
c. Chalk facing
PINGUIN
a. A sea bird
b. A kind of pineapple
c. A lumbar tendon

Answers on page 36

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Slashing Attacks

In the Madrid tournament, which finished over the weekend, the leading Spanish player, grandmaster Miguel Illescas, distinguished himself with a fine result, including a number of slashing attacks against top opponents, including Viktor Korchnoi, the former runner-up in the world championship.

White: Miguel Illescas
Black: Alexander Morozevich
Madrid, May 1996

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 e3 d5
5 Ng2 c5
6 g3 Bc6
7 Bg2 Be7
8 Bb1 c4
9 Ng3 b6
10 Bc2 bxc5
11 bxc5 a5
12 Be2 g6
13 0-0 Ng4
14 dxc5 Nf4
15 Bxg4 Bg4
16 f3 Bc7
17 f4 c4
18 e4 d4
19 f5 Ne6
20 Bxc3 Nd6
21 Nxb5 Nxc5
22 Ng6 Bc8
23 e4 Nc4
24 Qc1 g5
25 Qc2 Ne4
26 Qh5 Nf4
27 Qh6 Kh7
28 Qxg5+ Kh7
29 Rf4 Black resigns

White is planning Rh4, when mate is inevitable.

White: Miguel Illescas
Black: Viktor Korchnoi
Madrid, May 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 e6
6 Bg5 Be7
7 f4 O-O
8 Qf3 Qc7
9 Bb5 Bc6
10 Bxc6 Qxc6
11 e5 dxe5
12 fxe5 Nxe5
13 Qh5 Ng6
14 Qxg6 Bxg6
15 Bg3 Bg7
16 Bf4 Bc8
17 Bg5 Bb7
18 Bf4 Bc8
19 Bg5 Bb7
20 Bf4 Bc8
21 Bg5 Bb7
22 Bf4 Bc8
23 Bg5 Bb7
24 Bf4 Bc8
25 Bg5 Bb7
26 Bf4 Bc8
27 Bg5 Bb7
28 Bf4 Bc8
29 Bg5 Bb7
30 Bf4 Bc8
31 Bg5 Bb7
32 Bf4 Bc8
33 Bg5 Bb7
34 Bf4 Bc8
35 Bg5 Bb7
36 Bf4 Bc8
37 Bg5 Bb7
38 Bf4 Bc8
39 Bg5 Bb7
40 Bf4 Bc8
41 Bg5 Bb7
42 Bf4 Bc8
43 Bg5 Bb7
44 Bf4 Bc8
45 Bg5 Bb7
46 Bf4 Bc8
47 Bg5 Bb7
48 Bf4 Bc8
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92 Bf4 Bc8
93 Bg5 Bb7
94 Bf4 Bc8
95 Bg5 Bb7
96 Bf4 Bc8
97 Bg5 Bb7
98 Bf4 Bc8
99 Bg5 Bb7
100 Bf4 Bc8

White is planning Rh4, when mate is inevitable.

White: Miguel Illescas
Black: Viktor Korchnoi
Madrid, May 1996

White is planning Rh4, when mate is inevitable.

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White is planning Rh4, when mate is inevitable.

2 Nf3	d8
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nc3	Nf6
5 Bg5	Be7
6 Qc2	Qc7
7 Qc2	Qc7
8 Qc2	Qc7
9 Qc2	Qc7
10 Qc2	Qc7
11 Qc2	Qc7
12 Qc2	Qc7
13 Qc2	Qc7
14 Qc2	Qc7
15 Qc2	Qc7
16 Qc2	Qc7
17 Qc2	Qc7
18 Qc2	Qc7
19 Qc2	Qc7
20 Qc2	Qc7
21 Qc2	Qc7
22 Qc2	Qc7
23 Qc2	Qc7
24 Qc2	Qc7
25 Qc2	Qc7
26 Qc2	Qc7
27 Qc2	Qc7

Madrid Results

Illescas (Spain) and Topalov (Bulgaria) both 6.5/9; Shirov and Salov (both Spain) 6; Gelfand (Belarus) and Aznarparashvili (Georgia) 5; Adams (UK) 3.5; Morozevich (Russia) 3; Korchnoi (Switzerland) 2; San Segundo (Spain) 1.5.

Chess Collectors

Collectors of chess sets will be interested by a Sotheby's sale of fine chess sets on Wednesday and Thursday of this week in London.

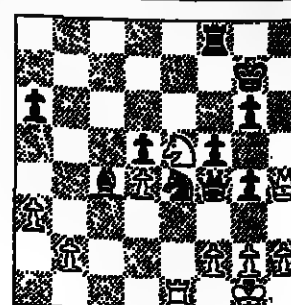
The most remarkable object to come under the hammer will be an Augsburg set of chess men from 1735 in silver, box wood and tortoiseshell for which advance estimates go as high as £50,000.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alatorsev - Kahn, Moscow 1941. White has just sacrificed a piece to reach this position. Can you see what he had in mind?



Solution on page 36

Council cannot provide homes through company

Credit Suisse and Another v Waltham Forest London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse
[Judgment May 18]

A local housing authority was not entitled to discharge any of its statutory functions, or to house the homeless by means of a partly owned company and it had no power under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 either to guarantee the obligations of the company under a loan agreement with a bank or to indemnify the company against losses.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by Waltham Forest London Borough Council from the decision of Mr Justice Goff in *Credit Suisse v Waltham Forest London Borough Council* (The Times November 8, 1994). The judgment, on the application of the plaintiffs, Credit Suisse and North East London Property Co Ltd (NELP), for summary judgment and/or disposal of the case on a point of law under Order 14 and 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court, given judgment in their favour.

In 1988 the council had established NELP, of which 50 per cent of the shares were held by the council and the balance by National Leasing Finance Co Ltd (NLFC), a company specialising in public housing finance and leasing schemes. The council guaranteed the loan of £11 million made by the bank to NELP for the purchase of 106 properties which would be leased to the council on short leases and also agreed to indemnify NELP against any losses.

It had been intended that the houses would be sold at the end of the lease period and the loan paid off in full but after a collapse in the property market there was a deficit in the proceeds of sale of the properties and NELP failed to pay off the loan.

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Richard Sheldon for the council; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Catherine Otton-Gould for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the judge had found that section 111 of the 1972 Act gave the council implied power to guarantee the payments by NELP under the loan agreement and to indemnify NELP. The Court of Appeal had had the advantage of more detailed arguments than those which were addressed to the judge. In

addition the court had had the opportunity of considering the scope of section 111 of the 1972 Act in deciding the appeal between the bank and Allerdale Borough Council (The Times May 20).

By section 23 of the 1972 Act it was provided that the council should be a body corporate. Its only powers were those given by statute. It was clear that it had no express statutory power either to guarantee the obligations of NELP under the loan agreement with the bank or to indemnify NELP against losses suffered as a result of the scheme.

Although it was true that local authorities were entitled under section 58 of the Housing Association Act 1985 to guarantee the payment of money borrowed by a housing association, that power was restricted so that assistance could only be given to a registered housing association, NELP, however, was neither a registered housing association nor a housing association of any kind.

The plaintiffs, however, relied on section 111 and argued, inter alia, that:

1 The scheme whereby the council, in conjunction with NLFC, established NELP as a means of purchasing and leasing the houses to that accommodation could be made available to homeless people was calculated to facilitate, or be conducive or incidental, to the discharge of the council's functions.

2 The provision of the guarantee to the bank and the grant of an indemnity to NELP also were calculated to facilitate, or be conducive or incidental, to the discharge of the council's functions.

3 The relevant functions were those contained in sections 9, 65 and 69 of the Housing Act 1985.

4 In those circumstances the provision of the guarantee and the indemnity were within the council's powers under section 111 of the 1972 Act.

That was a powerful argument. Furthermore, one must take account of the fact that the purpose of the scheme was to alleviate hardship and to meet the best possible housing needs of the homeless people. With regret, however, his Lordship had come to the conclusion that the council had no power to give the guarantee or to grant the indemnity.

The scheme for the leasing of the properties had a number of features which included the following:

(a) The houses were to be acquired not by the council but by NELP which was not its agent. Although two of the four directors of the company were appointed by the council, the council was not to be approved by all the directors. There was a possibility of a conflict of interest between the duties of the two council directors as directors and their duties as employees of the council.

(b) Under the option agreement the council was obliged to lease properties offered to them by NELP.

(c) The success of the scheme depended on continuing inflation in house prices. The council would no doubt have been aware of this with an isolated loss resulting from the unsuccessful sale of an individual property, but the potential exposure of the council was very large.

In *Credit Suisse v Allerdale BC* his Lordship had pointed out that it was necessary, when considering the implied powers of a local authority under section 111 of the 1972 Act, to identify the relevant statutory functions. It was also necessary to examine the context in which the implied powers were to be exercised.

Section 102 of the 1972 Act contained provisions relating to what arrangements could be made for the discharge of functions by local authorities. Those powers were very limited. They did not entitle a local housing authority to discharge any of its functions by means of a partly owned company. Could that power, or the power to give such a company assistance in the form of a guarantee or indemnity, be implied by reason of section 111?

His Lordship had come to the conclusion, as in the *Allerdale* case, that where Parliament had made detailed provisions as to how certain statutory functions were to be carried out there was no scope for implying the exercise of additional powers which lay wholly outside the statutory code. Section 111(3) made it clear that the power to enter into financial obligations was subject to statutory controls which might be imposed.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mr G. M. Curran, Waltham Forest; Lawrence Graham.

Local authority powerless to guarantee loan

Credit Suisse v Allerdale Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse
[Judgment May 18]

A scheme devised by a local authority for the development of a time share and leisure pool complex which involved setting up a company to borrow the requisite finance fell outside the scope of section 102 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the local authority had no power under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to guarantee the company's loan.

Accordingly, the establishment of the company and the giving of the guarantee were illegal.

The Court of Appeal stated dismissing an appeal by the bank, Credit Suisse, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Goff in *Credit Suisse v Allerdale Borough Council* (The Times November 8, 1994).

In 1986 the council wished to provide a leisure pool in Keswick and, in order to get around prescribed expenditure controls, devised a scheme which involved the inclusion of a time share development for the primary purpose of securing a profit to meet the costs of constructing the pool.

It was decided that a limited company, Allerdale Development Ltd, should be set up to assist with the financing of the project and that the board of the company should be composed of three councillors and one officer and that the council should provide the company with a guarantee of £6 million.

Subsequently, the sale of the time share units proved unsatisfactory, the company went into liquidation and the bank sought to recover from the council the sums owing to the bank by the company.

Section 19 of the 1976 Act provided: "(1) A local authority may provide, for the use of the public, any kind of financial assistance including the provision of a guarantee."

Section 21(1) of the 1976 Act provided: "(1) Without prejudice to any powers exercisable apart from this section but subject to the provisions of this Act and any other enactment passed before or after this Act, a local authority shall have power to do anything (whether or not involving the

expenditure, borrowing or lending of money...) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions."

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Catherine Otton-Gould for the bank; Mr Jules Sher, QC and Mr John Howell, QC, for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appeal raised a number of questions relating to the powers of local authorities, including the subsidiary powers conferred by section 111(1) of the 1972 Act.

At the material time in 1986 and 1987 the capital expenditure of district councils was subject to the provisions of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. Schedule 12 to the 1980 Act set out the categories of prescribed expenditure which were subject to control including the acquisition of land and the construction of buildings.

At a time when public spending, including spending local authorities, was under tight restraint the scope for local authorities to borrow money for capital schemes, however desirable, was extremely limited. It was against that background that the council, following a trend among other local authorities, came to consider the use of a company to borrow the funds which were needed for the pool.

It was thought to be desirable developments in the area.

Basing himself on section 19 of the 1976 Act and section 111 of the 1972 Act, counsel for the bank submitted, inter alia:

1 That the power under section 19(1) was a wide power to provide such recreational facilities as the council thought fit.

2 That one of the lawful ways of providing recreational facilities was by making use of a company which was under the control of the council.

3 That the concluding words of section 19(1) made it clear that the power to provide facilities included the power to provide "assistance of any kind". Such assistance could take the form of financial assistance including the provision of a guarantee.

4 That in any event the council had power to form a company and give a guarantee under its subsidiary powers contained in section 111 of the 1972 Act.

Section 21(1) of the 1976 Act also referred, inter alia, to section 21(1) of the Local Authorities (Land Act) 1963 which, he argued, empowered the council to carry out the scheme and to give the guarantee.

His Lordship did not find it necessary to decide whether, in the end it was the utility of the treatment which justified his termination.

LORD WYLLIE, LORD CULLEN, LORD CLYDE and LORD MILLIGAN delivered concurring opinions.

Law agents: Mr R. F. Macdonald, WS; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland: Anderson Strathern, WS.

absence of some statutory power, there might not be cases where a council could lawfully use a wholly owned subsidiary under its direct control as a means of carrying out certain of its functions. The company might then be the agent of the council. That point did not arise in the present case.

The purpose of the scheme was that the company should operate and incur liabilities independently of the council. The purpose would be frustrated if the company had been an agent.

If, when a sum was drawn under the loan facility, the company was acting as agent for the council, the borrowing would have been a breach of the statutory control. The borrowing was intended to be outside the statutory control. If, however, the sum was drawn by the company on its own behalf, it was not a breach of the provision of the facilities was by the company and not by the council. There was no escape from that dilemma.

The judge held that providing time share accommodation did not constitute the provision of a recreational activity and his Lordship agreed. It was said that the leisure pool would be used by persons occupying the time share accommodation and that there was a sufficient connection between the two.

As the judge had pointed out, however, the only real connection between the pool and the time share accommodation was the council's intention that the disposal of time share units would provide a source of funding for the repayment of the loan.

The words "assistance of any kind" had to be construed in their context. The words came at the end of section 19(1) and formed part of a sentence or clause. It seemed clear that the powers to provide buildings, etc were part of the powers to provide facilities and that the beneficiaries were intended to be those who were to enjoy or make use of the recreational facilities. In his Lordship's judgment the words could not be construed so as to mean that assistance could be given to those who were providing the recreational facilities.

The effect of section 111 of the 1972 Act had assumed great importance in the present case. The bank argued that the council's power under section 19 of the 1976 Act and section 2 of the 1963 Act were extended by section 111 so as to embrace the use of the company and the giving of the guarantee as legitimate means of carrying out the statutory functions under the two sections.

Where in the opinion of the court those uncertainties had been recognised and fully taken into account, the court could not shrink from granting a remedy which in law it was competent for it to grant. To fail to do so would be a dereliction of the court's function and duty, which it was required, in the absence of any declaration on the matter by Parliament, to carry out.

In the present case his Lordship was satisfied on the evidence and the facts that he had found from it, that it was no longer possible to suggest that the continuance of the treatment which was presently being administered, and had for some considerable time past been

expressed by the medical witnesses as to her present condition had been expressed in the knowledge of and having regard to the careful and authoritative guidance given

by the British Medical Association.

The opinions that had been expressed by the medical witnesses as to her present condition had been expressed in the knowledge of and having regard to the careful and authoritative guidance given

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powers of a local authority with regard to its borrowing.

In those circumstances where Parliament had laid down a route whereby a local authority could obtain the financial resources to enable it to carry out its statutory functions, it was possible to say that the scheme facilitated or was conducive or was incidental to the discharge of the relevant functions.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that one had to look at the statutory powers of local authorities as a whole. The only implied power could be a power for the council itself to borrow the money.

The implied powers in section 111 did not provide an escape route from the statutory controls. That was clear not only as a matter of principle but also on the construction of section 111 itself. Section 111(3) ensured that the powers exercisable under section 111(1) had to be used in conformity with the other statutory provisions.

Accordingly, the bank's argument on statutory powers failed at each stage. The establishment of the company and the giving of the guarantee were part of an ingenious scheme designed to circumvent the no doubt irksome controls imposed by central government. The council, however, could only do what it was empowered to do by statute. Neither the establishment of a company nor the giving of a guarantee fell within its express or implied powers. In the light of that conclusion it followed that the establishment of the company and the giving of the guarantee were ultra vires.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the council's obligation was to refund or repay the amount it had received and which it was unjust it should keep. It was inconsistent with the principle of repayment to give the concept of loss in this type of case a wider meaning equivalent to overall losses on the transaction.

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Power to allow discontinuance of treatment of insensate patient

Law Hospital NHS Trust v Lord Advocate and Another

Before the Lord President (Lord Hope of Craighead), Lord Wylie, Lord Cullen, Lord Clyde and Lord Milligan
[Judgment March 22]

The Court of Session had power, in the exercise of the Sovereign's authority as parens patriae, to authorise a medical practitioner to discontinue life-sustaining treatment that was being provided to a patient who was permanently unconscious and insensate. Whether or not such authority should be granted depended upon whether or not it was in the best interests of the patient that his or her life be prolonged by the continuance of the treatment.

The Inner House of the Court of Session, sitting as a court of five judges, so held: (i) giving guidance to the Lord Ordinary (Lord Cameron of Lochbroom), so held in an action of declarator brought by the Law Hospital NHS Trust against the Lord Advocate and the curator ad litem to X, a patient at the hospital, which, after evidence had been heard and findings in fact had been made by the Lord Ordinary, had been reported by him to the Inner House, and (ii) returning an instruction to put it out by order for a discussion as to further procedure in the light of the ruling of the Inner House.

Miss Lynda Clark, QC and Mr Jonathan Brodie for the pursuers; Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, QC, Lord Advocate and Mr Gerard Morrison for the Crown; Mr Colin McEachern, QC and Miss Nikola Stewart for the patient's curator ad litem.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the patient had been in a persistent vegetative state for at least three years. There was no prospect of any improvement in her condition.

She remained alive only because feeding and hydration were provided to her artificially and because of the nursing care that she continued to receive. Her consultant neurologist considered her position to be hopeless and that there were no useful avenues of treatment to explore.

Her next of kin had agreed that life-sustaining and medical treatment should be discontinued. The patient herself, however, was unable to give her consent.

Faction of the court. A medical practitioner who acted or omitted to act with the consent of his patient could not be sanctioned from the court. The patient's consent otherwise would be unlawful.

The problems arose where the patient was not of full age or lacked capacity to consent to what was being proposed. The question whether it would be lawful to cease to provide treatment could not be left to the medical profession, for it was a matter for the courts so long as there was no declaration on the matter by Parliament.

The law became relevant to the process of decision-making because a breach of duty was a delict which might give rise to a claim in damages. A deliberate

omission which caused death might also expose the medical practitioner to the allegation that his conduct was criminal.

A doctor was entitled to be told whether his conduct would expose him to the risk of an action of damages, and he could not ignore the risk that a prosecution might follow for murder or culpable homicide.

The proposed declarator. The first objection to the declarator sought was that it was unnecessary because the Court of Session retained a jurisdiction on behalf of the Sovereign as parens patriae to authorise treatment or the withdrawal of treatment on behalf of a person who was incapable of giving authority.

Second, it was said that the action was incompetent because it lacked a contravention.

Third, it was argued that the declarator that was sought was too wide because it invited the court to issue a declaration as to whether or not the proposed conduct was a crime, whereas that was a matter within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court of Justiciary.

In relation to the second objection, in *Macdonagh v Macdonagh's Trs* (1953 SC 381, 392) Lord Justice-Clerk Thomson had said that the courts had "no concern with hypothetical, premature or academic questions or do they exist to advise litigants as to the policy which they should adopt in the ordering of their affairs. The courts are neither a debating club nor an advisory bureau" (see also *Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank v British Bank for Foreign Trade Ltd* (1921 AC 438, 448) per Lord Dunedin).

In the present case there was no live controversy between the pursuers and any other party about the legal consequences of the withdrawal of treatment. Nevertheless, the purpose of a declarator would be to give guidance and reassurance to the pursuers and to the patient's medical practitioner.

There was no doubt that there was a live practical issue for them, because it was clear that without guidance, they would not feel able to discontinue the treatment. The risks to which they would otherwise be exposed were too great, and were not diminished by the fact that the patient's curator ad litem had said it was in her best interests to continue her treatment.

The third objection bore on the fact that the proposed declarator implicitly asserted that the conduct was not only not a breach of duty according to civil law, but was also not a crime.

There was some merit in the proposal that their Lordships should follow the House of Lords in *Aliredale NHS Trust v Bland* (1993 AC 789) and authorise the Lord Ordinary to make a declarator about the criminality or otherwise of the proposed conduct as well as its civil law consequences, since from a practical point of view the two issues were closely related.

If it was necessary for the court to resolve the issue of criminal law in order to decide whether a party was entitled to some other civil remedy, then that would be within its competence. But a bare declarator that a proposed course of conduct was or was not criminal

would only serve a purpose in regard to the operation of the criminal law, which lay beyond the jurisdiction of their Lordships' court.

It would be undesirable for the Court of Session to attempt to define what did or did not amount to criminal conduct unless that was essential in order to decide an issue which a party had an interest to raise in the court. There were strong reasons of policy for leaving the definition of criminal conduct to the criminal courts. A declaration by their Lordships would be binding on the High Court of Justiciary or on the Lord Advocate. A further point was that, while an appeal lay to the House of Lords from the Court of Session, no appeal was competent from the High Court of Justiciary. The terms of the proposed declarator would have accordingly to be amended to make it clear that it was given in regard only to the civil law consequences of the proposed conduct.

The parens patriae jurisdiction. In the case of *Bland* regret had been expressed that the ancient prerogative parens patriae jurisdiction to protect the persons and property of those who were unable to do so for themselves was longer exercisable by the English court because of the revocation of the Warrant of April 10, 1956, on the coming into force in England and Wales of the Mental Health Act 1959.

It was clear that the law of Scotland had from an early stage recognised that the Sovereign, as parens patriae, was the natural and legal guardian of children under full age and of the insane; see *Fraser v Harris & Child* (1891 SC 100); *Erskine* 1, 7 & 8 Star 1, 6, 11; *Craig v Feudale* (1603) 20.20; *Balfour v Balfour* (1883) 254, 259.

The Sovereign's powers were exercised in the Court of Exchequer, the jurisdiction of which had subsequently been vested in the Court of Session by section 1 of the Exchequer Court (Scotland) Act 1856.

In his Lordship's opinion, that jurisdiction was available to be exercised in the present case, because the patient was plainly incapable of taking any decisions in her own interest; see *E (Mrs) v E* (1986) 2 SCR 388; *In re B (A Minor) (Wardship: Sterilisation)* (1988) 1 AC 199, 211H; *In the matter of a Ward of Court* (1995) 2 ILRM 401.

There was no precedent for the exercise of the jurisdiction by way of granting authority, as opposed to appointing a tutor-dative, but in the present circumstances the appointment of a tutor-dative was unnecessary, because if authority were granted, there would be no continuing duties for a tutor to perform.

The logical and correct course would be for the court to grant its own authority to the medical practitioner to discontinue treatment. Authorisation in the exercise of that jurisdiction would have the same effect in law as if consent had been given by the patient.

Test to be applied. In *L v F's Curator ad litem* (The Times March 19, 1996) where a ward's surgical sterilisation was being proposed, Lord MacLennan

had said that the question whether that was proposed was in her best interests was the correct test to be applied; see also *In re F (Mental Patient: Sterilisation)* (1990) 2 AC 1; *Bland*; *In the matter of a Ward of Court* (1995) 2 ILRM 401; *Fraser v Harris & Child* (1891 SC 100); *Erskine* 1, 7 & 8 Star 1, 6, 11; *Craig v Feudale* (1603) 20.20; *Balfour v Balfour* (1883) 254, 259.

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In his Lordship's opinion the court should approve of the application of that test both in those circumstances and in cases such as the present.

However, it was necessary to give further guidance to the Lord Ordinary as to how that broad test is to be applied to the facts of the present case. The question for him was whether he should grant a declarator, which would be unnecessary in future cases, and whether, in the exercise of the power which their Lordships would give him in the exercise of the parens patriae jurisdiction, he should authorise what was proposed to be done.

The issue in respect of both matters was the same: whether it was in the patient's best interests that her life should be prolonged by the continuance of the life-sustaining and medical treatment that she currently received.

It seemed to his Lordship that on the facts of the case there could almost certainly be only one answer to that question. None the less, Mr McEachern still wished to present argument to the Lord Ordinary that it was in the ward's best interests that the treatment should continue.

It was possible to say that the treatment could be of any benefit, then no doubt there would be a balancing exercise to be done in order to assess whether it was in her best interests that it should be discontinued. But if it could not be of any benefit to her, then there were no longer any best interests to be served by continuing it.

That was to view the question of best interests negatively, but the test could properly be applied in that way in the light of the medical evidence in the case. His Lordship could see no relevant distinction between the way in which the underlying principle was applied in the case of *Bland* and the question which had now to be decided.

In *Bland* Lord Keith of Kinkaid, having noted that it was perhaps permissible to say that to an individual with no cognitive capacity whatever, and with no prospect of ever recovering any such capacity in this world, it had to be a matter of complete indifference whether he lived or died, had considered whether the principle of the sanctity of life required that the treatment should be continued.

Lord Keith had concluded that it did no violence to the principle to hold that it was lawful to cease to give treatment to such a patient, considering that treatment involved invasive manipulation of the patient's body to which he had not consented and which conferred no benefit upon him (see pp 888D and 890D-E). His Lordship found Lord Keith's reasoning compelling.

His Lordship agreed also with Lord Goff of Chelvey when in the same case (at pp 898B-E) he had said that in this class of case there was in reality no weighing operation to be performed and that in

the end it was the utility of the treatment which justified

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Aberdeen Trust, Countryside Properties, Edinburgh Inca Trust, National Home Loans, RM, SEC Group.
Finals: British Airways, F&C Income Growth Investment Trust, Needer Group, Seton Healthcare.
Economic statistics: Motor vehicle production for April.

TOMORROW

Interims: Archimedes Investment Trust, Brooke Tool Engineering, Eldridge Pope, Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets, Hozelock Group.
Finals: Baring Stratton Investment Trust, AF Bulgin & Co, El Oro Mining, ERF Holdings, Exploration Co, Jarvis Porter, Marks & Spencer, Reading International, Trinity Care, Vosper Thornycroft.
Economic Statistics: Building society monthly figures for April, provisional M4 and counterparty for April, major British banking groups' monthly statement.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Archer Group, Baggeridge Brick, Bass, Chrysalis Group, Dundee Smaller Cos, Merchant Retail Group, Quadramatic, Schroder Asia Pacific, Tunstall Group, Whessoe.
Finals: Courtaulds, Hoare Govett Smaller, Hoare Govett 1000, Glencair Explorations, Land Securities, Lazard Select Investment Trust, Mercury Euro Privatization, New Throgmorton (1985), York Waterworks.

THURSDAY

Interims: Abstrut Asian Smaller, Acasos & Hutcheson, API Group, Morland & Co, PWS Holdings, Scottish Investment Trust, Southnews, Storehouse, Videologic Group, H Young Holdings.
Finals: Airflow Streamlines, Boustead, BTG, Cable and Wireless, City of London PR, Cranswick, Elliott (B), Forward Group, Glenmorangie, Korea Asia Fund, London & Overseas Freighters, Rolfe & Nolan, Shires Investment.
Economic statistics: Output, income and expenditure (first quarter), retail sales for April.

FRIDAY

Interims: Fenchurch, Great Western Resources.
Finals: Castings.
Economic statistics: Confederation of British Industry monthly trends for May, provisional capital expenditure and stocks (first quarter).

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS



BA likely to fly sharply higher

BRITISH AIRWAYS: A steadily increasing number of passengers is expected to help the self-proclaimed "world's favourite airline" to offset soaring costs and fly sharply higher with bumper set of full-year profits when it reports today.

British Airways, which is headed by Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, and Bob Ayling, chief executive, may have had its wings clipped by soaring costs, but passenger traffic climbed by a healthy 9.8 per cent and price increases were implemented during what most analysts agree has been a great year for airlines.

Richard Hannah, an analyst at UBS, is looking for final pre-tax profits to advance to £580 million, compared with £452 million last time before the write-down of £125 million at USAir, the struggling airline in which British Airways holds a stake of 25 per cent. A dividend payment of 13.5p, compared with 12.4p, is predicted.

Attention will focus on current trading and prospects as well as any news on British Airways next phase of globalisation. Analysts will be particularly keen to hear any news following recent market speculation about a possible tie-up agreement with American Airlines, whether it be through some kind of stake or a pooling of assets.

BASS: A poor performance from its leisure division is likely to act as a drag on interim figures that are due out Wednesday. At the time of the annual meeting in February, the group, of which Sir Ian Prosser is chairman and chief executive, gave a warning that profits from its leisure operations would be down on the year because of a combination of events.

Conditions are likely to have improved since then, with its bingo interests stabilising after a period that has seen a large part of its market eroded by the introduction of the National Lottery. Coral, its bookmaking business, is also expected to have improved, helped by the onset of better weather.

Matthew Naylor, of Williams de Broe, the broker, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £280 million, against £263 million last time, with the dividend forecast to grow 8 per cent to 7.7p.

Mr Naylor expects Holiday Inns to produce a similar perfor-



Sir Ian Prosser, of Bass, a front-runner to buy Allied Domecq's Carlsberg-Tetley operation

mance to that of last year, with an increase in new units of 5 per cent in North America and 10 per cent in Europe.

Brewing should have benefited from the introduction of new products such as Caffreys Irish beer and Hooch, the controversial alcoholic lemonade, but margins generally will remain under pressure in a difficult market. Trading in its pub chain has been encouraging.

Mr Naylor says that Bass remains a front-runner to buy the troubled Carlsberg-Tetley operation of Allied Domecq, which he estimates could generate savings of £80 million a year.

MARKS & SPENCER: The group's attempts to breach the

one billion pound mark for the first time are likely to fall short of the mark when full-year figures are unveiled tomorrow.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Mees Peirson, is forecasting final pre-tax profits at Marks & Spencer of £990 million, compared with £930 million last time. The dividend should grow from 10.3p to 11.2p.

The company will no doubt try to dispel any suggestions from brokers that its women's fashion business has been struggling to make headway during a difficult period.

The star performer is likely to be the food retailing side, which will be unaffected by the food price war and will have enjoyed further growth. The group gener-

ally should have benefited from the gradual pick-up in consumer demand in spite of the poor weather and maintaining a tough line with its suppliers is likely to mean few problems when it comes to de-stocking.

STOREHOUSE: The recent recovery in the group's fortunes has been clearly reflected in the share price. But when the group reports full-year figures on Thursday, there could be signs that the recovery is starting to run out of steam.

The first cracks began appearing in February at the time of the annual meeting when the group gave a warning that profits at Mothercare would fail to live up to expectations. This prompted

analysts to cut their estimates to below the £110 million, with Nick Bubb forecasting £107 million, compared with £91 million last time.

Brokers will no doubt want to establish the current state of play at Mothercare. The dividend is expected to rise from 6.3p to 7.1p.

COURTAULDS: Margin pressures from raw material prices and adverse weather in the United States are widely expected to take a toll on full-year profits at the international chemicals and fibres group when it reports on Wednesday.

Final pre-tax profits are forecast to fall to £130 million, compared with £151.1 million, according to Jeremy Chantry, of Kleinwort Benson.

A dividend of 16p, as against 15.4p, is predicted.

With weak demand for fibres, attention will focus on current trading and future prospects, especially as raw material prices have started to rise again. The benefits of cutting costs should also start to come through, especially on the coatings side of the business.

CABLE AND WIRELESS: Another solid performance from its Hongkong Telecom subsidiary will be the driving force behind an anticipated profits advance at Cable and Wireless, which last week announced the appointment of Dick Brown as its eagerly-awaited new chief executive.

The company will no doubt insist that it is far too early to provide any indication of future changes of strategy as a result of the appointment.

Interest in Thursday's full-year results will therefore focus on the performance of Mercury and evidence of a continuing turnaround of overseas start-ups.

Mark Lambert, of NatWest Securities, is looking for normalised final pre-tax profits to advance to £1.23 billion, giving earnings of 25.9p, as against 23.6p a share. A dividend of 9.9p, compared with 9.05p, is predicted.

The figures exclude a £200 million exceptional profit on the sale of the group's stake in a German cellular licence and a £120 million write-off in Eastern Europe.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Rates pointer in M4 growth

BRITISH economic statistics due this week will help to flesh out what is happening in the consumer sector of the economy, which is being relied on so heavily by the Treasury to hit its 3 per cent growth forecast this year.

April figures for building society mortgage lending and approvals are due tomorrow along with the latest reading for M4 money supply. Money supply is expected to have risen by 0.7 per cent in April, taking its year-on-year growth rate to more than 10 per cent and providing another argument against lower interest rates.

Retail sales figures for April are due on Thursday and are expected to show growth of about 0.5 per cent in the month, compared with the very small increase of 0.2 per cent in March. Year-on-year growth in sales is expected to remain at March's 2.2 per cent. Thursday also sees the second estimate of first-quarter economic growth. The first estimate put growth in gross domestic product at 0.4 per cent and this is not expected to change. The consumer spending component of GDP is expected to have risen by 0.7 per cent, a modest acceleration from the 0.5 per cent recorded in both the third and fourth quarters last year.

Friday sees the latest monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, as well as provisional figures for capital spending and stocks for the first quarter. The stocks figures are particularly keenly awaited, given the huge build-up of stocks last year that added to GDP and could depress growth this year as those stocks are gradually run down.

Other points of interest this week are German M3 money supply figures for April, keenly watched as an influence on the Bundesbank's interest rate policy. The rate of growth of M3 is expected to ease to below 11 per cent from 12.3 per cent in March. Bundesbank officials have emphasised that they will not make any further decisions on German rates until they can look closely at April's money-supply figures.

In addition, the Federal Open Market Committee meets in America tomorrow to discuss interest rates. The markets are no longer so concerned about the possibility of a US rate rise because of recent benign inflation figures.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Delphi, Railtrack, Forth Ports, Bass.
The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Ockham Holdings, Waverley Mining; Sell Land Securities.
Independent on Sunday: Buy Cable and Wireless; Sell Wolverhampton & Dudley.
The Mail on Sunday: Buy Mulberry, Television Corporation; Sell Manchester United.

Deals threaten financial services jobs

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

AT LEAST 80,000 jobs will be lost in financial services within the next five years as a wave of mergers and acquisitions irrevocably changes the face of the industry.

According to research conducted among leading banks, building societies and insurance companies in the UK, most of the redundancies will be among middle managers.

A number of leading companies have already announced cuts. Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance have told staff that 4,000 jobs will go in the UK when the two insurers merge later this year, and, in February, Scottish Widows, the fifth largest UK life office, announced a nationwide cost-cutting exercise that will cost 700 jobs. Unions

anticipate further job losses when building societies demutualise and convert to banks, or merge.

About 735,000 people are employed in the financial services industry, according to the COBA Group, the strategic consultant that conducted the survey. Of these, about 100,000 work in building societies, 270,000 in insurance and a further 365,000 in banks.

Graham Gould, COBA Group partner, said: "We are going through a huge period of change, and those companies who fail to recognise this will be left behind, or may not even exist. It is middle managers who will feel the real pain. However, middle managers give focus to junior staff and if they are removed

there is a real danger that organisations will not be managed properly." In spite of the job insecurity that employees will feel, the retail financial sector still believes that people factors — customer focus, good-quality management and staff — are among the most

important drivers of success in the future, he said.

Mr Gould believes that success will come from value-for-money, easy-access products that are simple to understand. He cites the growth of Direct Line and Virgin products, which are all three.

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20 May, 1996



Boris Yeltsin: The Reform 2nd Act

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Post Office employee relations under fire

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

POST OFFICE managers will acknowledge this week that the Post Office is now in a "cycle of perpetual industrial action", though they will also attack senior management for requiring frontline managers to not tell the full truth about employment changes.

The public acknowledgement of poor employee relations comes amid a strike ballot among postal workers. If action is taken, it will be the first national strike in the Post Office for nearly a decade.

Senior management is signalling that more money is available in the Royal Mail's dispute with the Communication Workers' Union over pay, productivity and working practices. However, no moves are likely to be made towards fresh talks until after the union declares the result of the ballot among its 140,000 postal workers at the beginning of next month.

After the rejection of the Royal Mail's Employee Agenda package by the CWU's postal executive, some CWU leaders are hoping executive elections — to be declared before the strike ballot result is known — might change the complexion of the union's postal executive, allowing talks with Royal Mail management to begin.

Before that, frontline Post Office managers will this week make clear their strong feelings about the possibility of a strike, and about the poor state of employee relations in the Post Office.

At the annual conference of the Communication Managers' Association, which opens

today in Eastbourne, Post Office managers will declare their concerns about the prospect of a strike by postal workers.

A document for the association's debate on the Royal Mail's Employee Agenda package, and its management equivalent, the Agenda for Leadership, says that it is "impossible to ignore the Royal Mail's appalling industrial disputes record, which is by far the worst in the country".

Calculations suggest that one sixth of all working days lost through strikes throughout Britain in the past year have been lost in the Post Office. Terry Deegan, the CMA's general secretary, is expected to say tomorrow that the Post Office is now in "a cycle of virtually perpetual industrial action, or at least the threat of it. That cannot be right. There must be a better way of working".

Postal workers' leaders are opposing the Post Office's proposals for teamworking, and while managers are committed to the principle of teamworking, they accept that some believe it will lead to job losses.

The CMA's document also makes it clear that operational managers are unhappy about what they have had to tell postal workers about the senior management's Employee Agenda proposals. It says that the "Royal Mail has, in some instances, reduced the credibility of frontline managers by requiring them to disseminate incomplete information".

City Diary, page 38



Richard Branson and Rowan Gormley will be offering some of the cheapest rates in the life insurance market

Henley study shows value of risk-taking

HIGH-FLYING managers are willing to take risks, combined with a "fierce" competitive streak, and see their earnings race ahead of less successful managers, according to a Henley Management College study.

The study tracked a sample of 100 managers over seven years. Apart from risk-taking, high-flyers plan well, manage staff properly, are able to motivate others, and generally are poor losers. Managers at the start of the study were earning £29,000 on average, while the average salary now of the study sample is £54,900.

Virgin takes on life insurers

By Caroline Merrell

VIRGIN DIRECT, the financial services arm of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, is hoping to imitate the success of its personal equity plan operation with the launch of a low-cost life insurance company.

The life company will initially target the 70,000 people who have taken out Peeps with Virgin Direct, but will follow this up with a full launch on June 9. It aims to take on 20,000 new policyholders over the next year by offering the cheapest rates in the market. The products will be sold via telephone.

The Peep company, which was launched just over a year ago, has made a significant impact on the fund management industry. Many com-

panies, such as Legal & General, HSBC and Fidelity have been forced to cut their charges to try to match Virgin. The company now has £325 million under management.

Customers of the new life insurer will initially be offered a range of four life products — three types of life insurance and a critical illness plan linked to income protection. Rowan Gormley, Virgin Direct managing director, said: "We designed the product range by asking the customers what they wanted. They were not interested in endowment-type products which mix investments with protection."

He also said that research showed that many people would not take out traditional income protection policies, or permanent health insurance policies, because they felt they carried too many exclusion clauses. Virgin's entrance into this market is likely to increase the pressure on the more traditional life insurers. Many of the established companies are reporting sharp declines in business volumes because of a series of scandals including the mis-selling of thousands of personal pensions.

There has already been a spate of rationalisations in the industry, including the takeover of Provident Mutual by General Accident, and the merger of Sun Alliance with Royal Life. Virgin Life could be the catalyst for a further shake-out.

GILT-EDGED

Market makes too much of inflation risk

GILTS have recently regained some ground, but have still lagged most other European markets since the start of this year. Bears have feasted on disappointing RPI data and rising political uncertainties, while the UK's opt-out and public hostility to EMU have excluded the UK from the recent "convergence" rally.

Gilt yields include a sizeable premium for these risks, with relatively high real yields compared with other markets. However, these risks are exaggerated. Inflation is set to fall this year and to stay low in 1997. Fiscal policy is likely to stay tight regardless of the general election result and whether or not the UK joins any move to EMU. As market perception of these risks diminishes, the gilt/bund spread is likely to fall to about 150 basis points in coming months. Spreads may fall much further if a Labour government is elected.

Labour government actually delivers on fiscal restraint. We expect base rates to stay around 6 per cent this year and next.

Consumers' spending is picking up, but the economy will be capped by weak-ness in inventories and exports. Moreover, policy is not loose enough to prompt a boom. Fiscal policy is tight, and real short rates are about 3 per cent, similar to their long-run norm. If, as seems likely, base rates stay stable this year, real rates will rise as inflation falls. Consumers' willingness to go on a binge is also likely to be inhibited by high debts, low job security and the need to save to offset erosion of welfare benefits. Funds from maturing Tassas have largely been saved.

The recent surge in M4 overstates the economy's momentum. Takeovers and gilt repos have boosted deposits held by non-bank financial institutions — mainly life and pension funds plus securities dealers. The surge in these institutions' deposits accounted for nearly half of last year's M4 rise, but has little significance for the real economy. Deposits held by households and non-financial companies have risen more modestly, and their growth is still consistent with a low-inflation scenario.

A modest pick-up in growth will not stop inflation

falling below 2.5 per cent this year and staying low next year. Lead inputs to inflation, such as input prices, output prices and survey measures of manufacturers' price expectations, all point lower. The CBI reports low levels of skilled labour shortages, and household inflation expectations are subdued. Wage deals have been stable at 3.5 per cent since autumn.

Fiscal policy is unlikely to derail this low-inflation outlook, either before or after an election. Opinion polls suggest that voters do not trust the Tories on tax. Hence, any tax cuts in this year's Budget will be limited by the need to ensure that they are sustainable. A big net fiscal giveaway would produce little political gain because voters would fear that — as in 1992 — taxes would rise again after the election.

A Labour government would also be in this fiscal strait-jacket.

Tony Blair's desire for a choice on joining a move to EMU is a powerful constraint. Even with the current tough fiscal plans, the budget deficit on the Maastricht basis will probably exceed 3.5 per cent of GDP in 1997. The UK could probably scrape into EMU with such a deficit, but there is no room for fiscal slippage.

Indeed, if it wins by a big majority, Labour may quickly tighten fiscal policy further via spending cuts and/or new "green" taxes to deal conclusively with the fiscal problem. Markets charge such a high premium for fiscal risks that a cautious stance can yield sizeable benefits via lower long-term interest rates and reduced pressure for higher short rates. Hence, fiscal caution would probably not slow the real economy, while savings on debt service would help the fiscal numbers.

President Clinton's tightening of fiscal policy after his election has been followed by reasonable economic growth, relatively low short- and long-term rates and, now, a big opinion poll lead. If Labour also takes a tough fiscal line, market perceptions would be transformed, and the gilt/bund spread could plummet to 100 basis points or so in the next couple of years.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Salomon Brothers

If it wins a big majority, Labour may tighten fiscal policy further

M&S ends cash-back on in-store cards

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

MARKS & SPENCER will today abandon cash-back facilities on its in-store Chargecard and Budgetcard.

The retailer had been running a trial in all its stores since last October, soon after it started offering cash-back facilities to customers using bank debit cards. However, it found there was insufficient demand to justify continuing the service.

M&S had been notoriously reluctant to accept bankcards. It finally agreed to accept debit cards last year and has been taking them in all its stores

since last autumn. M&S would do so only on the understanding that it would also be able to provide cash-back to its customers through the stores, making it the only clothes retailer to do so.

M&S said that there was little demand for the service. "Because there were so few people using it, staff were not used to using it and did not become efficient at doing it." Although the retailer made the service available, it did not publicise it widely.

Companies, page 35

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Israeli high-tech company online

ISRAEL, home to the world's second silicon valley, could become AIM's fastest-growing overseas client if SEA Multimedia's decision to join it instead of Nasdaq sets a trend, according to analysts.

SEA, which makes CD-Roms, decided not to join Nasdaq, saying that the buoyant New York market would give it unsustainably high multiples.

"SEA could probably have raised more money by going to Nasdaq," said Michael Rosenberg, of Raphael Zorn Hensley, which is sponsoring SEA's placement. "But Israeli businesses are looking

for ratios that are both comfortable and sustainable." He added that there are about 200 Israeli businesses due to come to the market in the next few years. "When Israelis choose a global trading base, proximity seems to be a major factor. Israelis feel more comfortable trading somewhere closer to home."

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterford Securities, said the performance of

Drmatel, an Israeli security firm trading on the AIM, had been disappointing, but added that the multimedia sector had good growth potential.

He said: "The AIM is attracting more foreign companies, but I would guard against it becoming a dumping ground for companies that can't make it on overseas exchanges. If they don't want them there, we don't want them here."

AIM's strongest performer

last week was Thomas Potts, the printing company whose shares were placed at 5p on Tuesday. They immediately rose to 10p, where they stayed for the rest of the week.

Epic Multimedia, the largest multimedia firm in Europe, starts trading soon via a placing by Henry Cook at 105p. Analysts are expecting the shares to reach premiums of between 20p and 25p.

A total of 150 companies are now trading on AIM, which finished the week's trading with a total market capitalisation of £3.11 billion.

FRASER NELSON

1996	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Wtdy +/-	TM %	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Wtdy +/-	TM %	P/E	
134	108	108	18.20	AMCO Corp	128	+1	4.9	17.9	286	255	46.00	La Riches Srs	277	+7	6.9	27.1
58	16	2.37	Abacus Regent	95	85	0.2	...	...	136	136	1.00	London Asia Pk	85	...	...	...
138	115	21.20	Active Imaging	116	-5	...	...	...	70	65	62.90	Lon Fibreclay	65	...	...	...
165	123	23.60	A de Guchy	160	+14	4.7	...	...	10	10	1.45	Lunatic Town	10	...	...	...
20	74	19.30	African Gold	194	...	...	...	...	315	200	18.00	Luxor Inc	315	+50	1.5	...
14	13	5.90	Albermarle & Bd	145	...	...	...	...	85	15	10.00	Marc & Thos	17	...	2.4	26.0
24	17	9.44	Alpha Distro	18	-1	...	...	...	125	113	14.10	Marine & Merc S	117	-3	...	...
415	380	39.20	Am St Brewery	410	+5	5.3	12.3	...	117	92	44.80	Magnum Media	104	-3	...	...
525	855	5.48	Am St Cy Pl	920	+10	8.5	...	...	89	79	8.70	Magnum Media	108	...	...	...
121	89	54.70	Amstar	91	-4	...	...	...	111	85	7.71	Magnum Media Wts	108	...	2.9	...
9	6	1.89	Anon Prop	8	...	...	...	...	475	120	90.60	Memory Corp	153	+26	...	...
121	69	18.70	Asst Central	116	-4	...	...	...	22	18	5.46	Metromedia Films	19	-2	...	...
41	58	1.06	Atchafalaya Trust	60	...	...	...	...	255	105	17.80	Monopoly	255	...	2.3	24.1
6	2	7.08	Ballymore	59	...	...	...	...	200	105	0.83	Moritz & Thos	118	-12	...	24.5
20	17	4.62	Bark Hldgs	18	...	...	...	...	200	67	24.50	Multimedia	85	...	...	...
46	43	3.85	Belmont	40	...	...	...	...	340	285	21.80	NWF Corp	290	...	2.8	14.0
150	140	0.99	Bentley Lms	145	...	3.9	...	...	210	175	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.2	...
70	70	12.10	Brancato Hldgs	70	...	...	...	...	355	355	0.88	Nash Clerk	355	...	2.1	17.2
388	240	45.40	Brookbank	385	+20	2.4	...	...	200	200	10.60	Nelson Cateloid	365	+2	1.8	18.2
124	118	12.80	CA Counts Hldgs	120	...	...	...	...	73	65	7.45	Nelson Cateloid	65	...	...	...
120	118	0.85	CA Counts Hldgs	120	...	...	...	...	73	65	7.45	Nelson Cateloid	65	...	...	...
110	110	0.13	CCJ Foundry Shs	110	...	...	...	...	8	8	0.13	Nitin Palm Wts	8	...	...	...
185	85	4.85	Cole Ins	170	-2	1.5	14.0	...	70	53	17.90	Nitin Palm Wts	60	...	...	...
75	2	7.39	Calendrier Tst	65	...	...	...	...	110	111	17.90	Nitin Palm Wts	115	...	1.3	33.4
2	2	1.00	Capitol & Wm	2	...	...	...	...	104	89	14.50	Old English Pub	104	-2	...	...
96	68	12.30	Cardcast	76	-2	0.8	16.5	...	136	84	6.39	Omnicare	136	...	0.5	...
83	58	14.60	Card Clear	85	+2	...	...	...	88	51	14.30	Omnimedia	58	...	...	...
72	60	3.39	Cassidy Bros	62	...	6.0	8.8	...	68	68	21.60	Optical Care	93	-2	...	...
45	41	1.73	Cawston W F	42	...	4.7	...	...	105	43	15.30	Optical Care	105	...	...	...
18	16	5.26	Celebrated F	10	...	...	...	...	105	43	15.30	Optical Care	105	...	...	...
5175	5550	45.50	Celtic	5175	+2000	...	...	...	105	17	35.00	Optical Care	105	...	...	...
5175	5450	16.40	Celtic Pl Shs	5175	+2000	...	...	...	200	180	4.78	Part Cab(Lw)	200	...	3.2	...
124	100	16.40	C2 Comnet(V)	122	...	2.5	15.7	...	445	265	16.50	Part Cab(Lw)	445	...	...	...
86	82	6.93	Charwell Int	85	...	...	...	...	188	125	27.80	Polymers Pharms	188	...	...	...
61	53	63.10	Chelsea Village	60	...	...	...	...	565	400	7.28	Preston Wth E	565	...	...	...
110	110	0.99	Chm Hmms	110	...	...	...	...	105	100	16.50	Primary Hm Pl	105	...	...	...
31	28	12.70	Cibachrome	30	...	...	...	...	50	32	4.50	Ranwell Zn	50	...	3.1	31.4
510	510	12.20	Com de Plt Plt	510	...	...	...	...	66	43	45.50	Reltec	66	...	...	...
44	37	9.20	Conder Tst	42	...	4.8	10.5	...	105	63	1.00	Revelation Plc	93	-2	...	...
86	58	14.00	Country Gate	76	-4	2.3	...	...	17	16	11.20	Riceman Ince	17	...	...	...
83	70	2.78	Coty Lbr Pl	87	...	8.7	...	...	78	63	4.03	Riceman Ince	78	...	...	...
108	87	51.30	Crow Int	87	...	...	...	...	4	3	3.50	Rushmore Wyne	4	...	...	...
63	53	22.00	Crown Products	58	...	...	...	...	14	9	0.14	Rush Wm Wts	14	...	...	...
210	152	14.10	Cyber Management	208	+5	3.6	8.4	...	125	31	3.18	Schell	31	...	...	...
38	34	1.00	David Glass	33	...	...	...	...	31	20	2.16	Scotwood Inks	31	...	4.0	20.3
70	63	3.79	David Glass	70	...	...	...	...	320	270	14.80	Sonitex	305	...	5.3	...
1275	850	57.20	Dawson Hldgs	1250	...	3.0	33.6	...	30	20	2.04	Sonitex	30	...	...	...
17	11	4.87	Deer Camp	16	...	1.8	...	...	1	1	0.12	Sonitex	1	...	...	...
375	305	34.40	Diamond	335	...	...	...	...	585	524	137.70	Southern News	584	...	3.4	16.4
76	60	11.40	Dunelm	61	-2	...	...	...	85	50	9.50	Southern News	85	...	...	...
137	90	14.00	Easynet	88	...	...	...	...	915	585	97.90	Stanford Bank	530	...	...	...
200	100	74.40	Electronics	115	...	...	...	...	227	122	8.41	Stanley	225	...	1.1	20.5
125	120	5.40	Elite Sales F	120	...	...	...	...	136	116	16.50	Sys Intg Rsh	123	...	...	...
365	325	7.85	Farlane	365	+20	...	...	...	915	585	97.90	Stanford Bank	530	...	...	...
280	75	6.01	Fat Phots	255	...	...	...	...	227	122	8.41	Stanley	225	...	1.1	20.5
188	135	11.20	Firearm	87	...	...	...	...	136	116	16.50	Sys Intg Rsh	123	...	...	...
183	175	33.70	First Inter	175	...	...	...	...	915	585	97.90	Stanford Bank	530	...	...	...
220	180	2.24	First Inter	220	...	1.5	...	...	227	122	8.41	Stanley	225	...	1.1	20.5
543	253	7.85	Front St	538	...	0.4	15.4	...	185	180	38.80	Target Netwk	185	...	...	...
193	136	18.20	Formozan	177	-7	1.4	22.5	...	35	38	4.34	Tale Crest Ent	31	...	...	...
126	14	93.50	Freddie	25	...	...	...	...	43	25	4.34	Tale Crest Ent	31	...	...	...
22	18	6.45	Furlong Hmms	20	...	2.5	...	...	116	101	1.90	Tam Card Wts	116	...	...	...
94	84	26.10	Garford Hldgs	9	...	...	...	...	56	43	2.93	Ton Hoskins	58	...	...	...
22	15	5.40	Greenbills	18	...	...	...	...	180	170	...	Trinity Care	170	...	...	...
150	145	32.40	Gulton	145	...	3.4	...	...	170	165	...	Trinity Care Pl	170	...	...	...
41	39	2.24	Hamil Int	23	...	...	...	...	74	48	347.00	Truicomm	70	...	...	...
180	120	55.00	Hilco Int	22	...	1.1	2.4	...	42	41	...	Truicomm	42	...	...	...
80	70	6.87	Huntingham	75	+5	...	...	...	498	393	7.00	Unit Audims	365	...	1.3	...
122	105	12.20	Inter Radio	122	...	...	...	...	2014	1474	14.10	Unit Audims	175	...	9.4	12.7
88	85	14.70	Inner Workings	88	...	...	...	...	104	134	14.20	Versallite Ep	104	...	...	27.3
523	503	21.50	Inf Greetings	503	...	1.2	...	...	375	330	11.20	Vision	375	+20	...	...
103	83	30.80	Inf Greetings	103	-3	...	...	...	428	222	...	Vision	375	...	...	...
103	83	3.59	Jesman	88	...	13.2	1.3	...	10	7	...	Wadsworth Secs	10	...	...	...
317	280	23.20	Jennings Bros	315	-2	2.5	22.6	...	5	3	...	Wadsworth Secs	10	...	...	...
9	9	3.5	Just Group	9	...	...	...	...	19	13	5.25	Walden Secs Wnts	15	...	...	58.7
125	103	42.80	Just Group Wts	125	...	...	...	...	3	3	0.31	Walden Secs Wnts	15	...	...	...
120	133	52.90	KS Biomedix	113	-2	...	...	...	31	26	3.16	Weeknrestt Mkt	5	...	...	...
180	137	12.70	La Senza	138	-2	...	12.1	...	75	46	5.06	Weeknrestt Mkt	46	...	...	...
250	210	15.80	Lancashire En	260	+8	3.3	...	...	145	120	...	Wynesty Progs	260	...	...	...
2750	2550	49.90	Laurie Group	2550	...	3.5	13.0	...	300	170	25.80	Wynesty Progs	260	...	...	...

Barings corporate finance arm gets self-rule pledge



Aad Jacobs, ING chairman, made the "no merger" promise

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ING, the Dutch banking group that bought Barings from the administrators last year, has given its word that it will not attempt to merge its corporate finance business with a securities operation.

The Dutch bank is bucking the trend in deciding against building a European integrated investment banking operation. ING, which is chaired by Aad Jacobs, gave the commitment to Barings Brothers, the Barings corporate finance arm, at the end of last year when it approved a strategic plan proposed by the corporate finance directors.

Talking about the plan for the first time, James Moon, a director of Barings Brothers, said that by approving the plan, ING agreed to "a self-governing, self-managing, self-regulating unit". This meant agreeing to the future of Barings Brothers as an independent corporate advisory business.

Simon Borrowes, joint head of corporate finance at Barings Brothers, said: "We suggested that the absolute returns to the shareholder and returns on capital would be extremely attractive from such a business. We proved that last year and we are proving it again this year."

Last year Barings topped the mergers and acquisitions league, advising Lloyds Bank on its merger with

Trustee Savings Bank and Scottish Power on its offer for Manweb.

This year it has advised Cable and Wireless on its merger talks with BT, and is advising Royal Insurance on the proposed merger with Sun Alliance.

Under the new strategic plan, Barings Brothers set up 12 new industry groups, bringing industry specialists together with bankers. It positioned itself as an independent advisory business. Mr Borrowes said: "Part of the strategy was that we would not be distracted into building up a securities business in London."

Barings Brothers International was incorporated as a separate legal entity, whose directors are the corporate finance directors. This, said Mr Bor-

rows, "underlined the fact that we are an independent group", and that there were Chinese walls between the corporate finance arm and the rest of the ING group, including the Far Eastern securities business.

He went on: "We thought that trying to integrate with the backdrop of the collapse did not seem to us to offer the benefits that would outweigh the risks in terms of culture and in terms of financials."

The corporate finance business has its own profit-sharing arrangement with ING which, said Mr Borrowes, makes it easier to attract and retain staff as "it is not subject to the volatility of the securities business".

Campaign steps up, page 40

Growth and jobs top agenda at OECD meeting

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris this week will again have the related challenges of promoting growth and creating jobs at the top of its agenda. It will also discuss some of the key trade issues likely to come up at the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December.

The group, which now represents an expanding number of countries the world regarded as industrialised, 27 at the current tally, will also discuss

its own role as part of an ongoing review among world leaders of international institutions such as the OECD, the International Monetary Fund and the plethora of organisations under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Britain believes the OECD is a useful forum for discussions of economic and technical issues and is a useful source of analysis on these issues. One example is the research carried out by the OECD into issues of competition and labour markets, encapsulated in its Jobs Study, a

follow-up to which will be published at the meeting.

Jobs and growth will dominate the first session tomorrow. The OECD is expected broadly to endorse the usefulness of active labour market policies in cutting unemployment, preferring assistance in job search as a cheap but effective form of help, rather than ambitious, large-scale programmes. It is also expected to continue to give its support to more flexible labour markets, praising Britain in the process. Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, will be urging other industrialised nations to emulate Britain's drive towards flexibility.

The second session of the meetings will concentrate on trade and investment issues. Britain is hoping to press for a new round of trade negotiations after the December meeting of the WTO as part of the broad objective of achieving global free trade by the year 2020.

It is expected that a report on trade and labour standards will be published. This was a major source of controversy at the Group of Seven jobs summit in Lille in April. The OECD is this week expected to call for the enforcement of international labour standards, including the elimination of child labour.

The third session of the meeting on Wednesday will concentrate on the future of the OECD.

Target of 3% growth 'unlikely to be met'

BY JANET BUSH

THE Government has only a one in four chance of achieving its 3 per cent growth forecast this year, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, a leading economic think-tank.

In its latest economic review, published today, the institute says it believes that growth will slow marginally this year to 2.5 per cent, compared with 2.5 per cent in 1995. But it sees growth accelerating to 3.5 per cent in 1997. It argues that there is little evidence of any domestically generated inflationary pressure and that the underlying rate of inflation should drift

down to 2.5 per cent by the year's end.

However, inflation should pick up in 1997 in response to stronger consumer demand, and the chances of hitting the 2.5 per cent or lower inflation target would be less than 50/50 unless it raised interest rates. It recommends a combination of monetary and fiscal policy to control inflation as demand picks up.

The institute also says large pre-election tax cuts would be imprudent without cutting public spending, and the Government should even think of a tax rise to counteract the threat of too much consumer demand.

BA set for record bonuses

BY CARL MORTSHED AND RICHARD THOMSON

STAFF at British Airways are expecting record bonuses to be declared when the airline announces a profits surge today. The City is forecasting BA's annual profits to rise to about £380 million. If the airline comes close to that figure, the profits gain will trigger a £100 million cash payout to BA's 55,000 staff.

British Airways staff are all eligible to take part in a profit sharing scheme which awards an extra week's pay for every £100 million of profit the company makes above a threshold level. The figure excludes gains from disposals and other exceptional items, but BA confirmed yesterday that it meets the City forecasts it could be facing a bill for an extra four weeks pay, totalling £100 million.

The company sharply increased its staffing levels last year, contributing to a rise in

operating costs in the third quarter. After heavy reductions in manning levels during the recession, BA found itself short-handed. But the airline has been investing more heavily in service and has taken on more staff to deal with customers.

Further developments are expected this week in talks between BA and American Airlines, the largest US carrier, on linking their ticketing and flight systems.

Officials from the two companies will meet in the next few days. Although some industry observers believe that BA may unveil the plans when it announces its annual results today, some analysts believe the discussions may not be far enough advanced.

The proposed link-up will also be discussed today in Washington by the chief aviation negotiators from Britain

and the US. An alliance between two such large airlines would raise considerable anti-trust and deregulation issues for both countries.

The airlines are planning to link their ticket reservations and marketing systems and possibly integrate part of their flight networks. The alliance would create the largest airline grouping in the world, and one which would easily dominate the lucrative transatlantic routes.

The talks bring renewed problems for US Airways as Robert Ayling, BA's chief executive, visits the company for a board meeting this week. An alliance with American could mean BA would dump its 25 per cent stake in US Airways, which has halved in value since it was bought two years ago.

Companies, page 35
Long haul, page 38

Channel 5 may bring video upset

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

VIDEO retailers are anxiously awaiting the results of a trial next month which should show just how many homes will suffer video interference when Channel 5 launches next January. Retailers are worried that up to 3 million homes could be unable to use their videos during the vital Christmas period, wiping out about £60 million of business.

The problem arises because Channel 5 will broadcast at the same frequency as that used by video recorders. Initial estimates had suggested about 9.6 million homes would suffer interference and Channel 5 had guaranteed to return videos in 90 per cent of these homes as part of its licence conditions.

But a new estimate by NTL, the company responsible for broadcasting Channel 5, suggests that up to 12 million homes could be affected, leaving more than 3 million homes without videos after January 1. Channel 5 has said it will recruit up to 6,000 staff to help with the retuning, but if the tests prove that the number is going to be considerably higher, the company could struggle to deal with the extra work.

Oxfam targets the rag trade

OXFAM, the charity, today kicks off a major campaign aimed at ending atrocious labour conditions, low pay and job insecurity for millions of garment industry workers around the world (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The charity is lobbying Britain's five biggest clothing retailers, including Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and Burton Group, to adopt a voluntary code of conduct. Oxfam wants retailers to take responsibility for the actions of sub-contractors. The code includes a 48-hour working week, no employment of children under 14 and no forced labour.

Rover leads way on China trade mission

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Closely watched will be British Aerospace which, along with Aerospaziale of France and Alenia of Italy, is at an advanced stage of talks with China about developing a 100-seater jet. China is expected to make some aircraft

orders in the near future and BAE is in the running.

Mr Heseltine is to hold talks with Jiang Zemin, the President, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, who last month in France signed an order with Airbus, in which BAE has a 20 per cent share, for 33 aircraft.

"I don't think we are going to see anything in the league of the Airbus deal, but the British will certainly be hoping to exploit China's rift with the United States," a Western diplomat based in China said.

Also as part of the visit, the London Stock Exchange will hold a seminar in Peking in a bid to attract Chinese companies to list in London. The Stock Exchange hopes to sign a memorandum of understanding with the China Securities Regulatory Commission later this year.



Heseltine: high-level talks

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Nationwide to sponsor football in £5m deal

Nationwide, the UK's second-biggest society, is poised to replace Endsleigh Insurance as a Football League sponsor. A £5 million deal is expected to be unveiled at next weekend's finals of the divisional play-offs. Endsleigh paid £3 million in 1993 for its three-year deal.

Nationwide refused to confirm the deal. A spokesman said: "We are a major organisation so, as you would expect, we do look at marketing and sponsorship opportunities."

CWS profits rise by 20%

CWS, Europe's largest co-operative organisation, has reported a 20 per cent increase in profits from trading operations, to more than £52 million, and the best dividend payout to its members - Co-ops - for more than 40 years. Member Co-op societies pay out their profits, in turn, to the customers of their outlets, which include supermarkets, travel agencies and the UK's largest network of funeral directors.

Lennox Fyfe, CWS chairman, addressing its annual meeting in Manchester, described the results as another year of "robust profit performance".

Internet asset

British companies believe the information superhighway is coming. A survey commissioned by Barclays Bank reports that of 200 top UK companies, 81 per cent see the Internet as a business opportunity, with more than one third already having some type of on-screen site.

A Barclays spokeswoman said: "Most companies see it as a cost-effective form of communication between companies and a way of reaching new markets. It's relatively inexpensive to set up a site that can then be accessed by millions worldwide and it will be interesting to see how businesses use and adapt to the system."

Hurricane conference

About 100 delegates from international insurance and reinsurance agencies meet at Heathrow today to draw up contingency plans for this summer's hurricane season, which, potentially, could cause damage worth \$100 billion.

The conference, the first of its kind, has been called by the United Nations Environment Programme and will look at ways to manage the growing environmental risks that insurers face, including climate change, global warming, and pollution cover.

Debt report

People in Scotland and the Midlands have more problems handling their personal and business affairs, while those in the South East have the most difficulties with credit-card debts. These findings emerge today in the fifth survey on personal insolvency from the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency and are based on a survey of more than 2,000 cases in 1995.

Barclays Bank PLC

With effect from 20th May 1996 lending interest rates have been reduced as follows:

	New Rate	Old Rate
Barclays Executive Loan £15,000 and below	12.5% p.a.	13.5% p.a.
Barclays Executive Premium Loan over £15,000	12.5% p.a.	12.75% p.a.

BARCLAYS

Barclays Bank PLC Registered Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

BECK & POLITTEN ENGINEERING LIMITED
Company No. 26740761
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 (the Act) that:
1. By a written resolution dated 15 May 1996, the above Company has approved a payment out of capital for the purposes of the redemption by the Company of 250,000 'A' Preference Shares of 1p each and 1,250,000 'B' Preference Shares of 1p each, for which the permissible capital payment is £1,350,725.
2. The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditor's report required by section 173 of the Act are available for inspection at the Company's registered office, Burthorpe Road, Burthorpe, Leicestershire, LE12 9BQ.
3. Any creditor of the Company may apply to the Court under section 176 of the Act within five weeks immediately following 15 May 1996 for an order prohibiting the payment.
G.M. Slater, Company Secretary

Wilson Large & Partners
Notaries Public
In accordance with Rule 2.10 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, Brian J. Hamblin, give notice that I was appointed Administrator of the business by order of the County Court on 9 May 1996.
Date: 9 May 1996
BRIAN J. HAMBLIN, Administrator of Brunel Koff Farmer, 169 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1LD.

Company Number: 2650480
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE OF THE RECEIPT OF THE RECEIVED
Registered Office: 39-41 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1PX
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the following will be the business of the company: Brunel Koff Farmer, 169 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1LD. The business will be carried on from 4 June 1996 at 2.00 p.m. for the purposes provided for in Section 100 and 101 of the Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Grant Thornton, Grant Thornton Square, London, NW1 2EP on 31 May 1996 and 3 June 1996 between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.
DATED THIS 10TH DAY OF MAY 1996
A. S. P. Cook, Director

TAYLOR & WISEHART LIMITED
Registered Number: 706372
Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the said company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 14 July 1996 to send in their full names and addresses, their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their creditors, to the Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 18 May 1996
L. A. Manning, Liquidator

Palma Altham Finance Limited
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.100 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, L. A. Manning, of Brunel Koff Farmer, 169 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1LD, give notice that on 14 May 1996 I was appointed Liquidator of Palma Altham Finance Limited for the purposes of the winding up of the company.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 14 July 1996 to send in their full names and addresses, their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their creditors, to the Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 18 May 1996
L. A. Manning, Liquidator

EUROGAT GUARANTEE
EUROGAT LIMITED
EUROGAT NATIONWIDE SEC
VCE CERTIFICATES
The Insolvency Act 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, Peter S. Dunn, FCA, a Licensed Bankruptcy Practitioner of Latham & Co., 57 Kentish Place, London, W1H 3BT, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company for the purposes of the winding up of the company on 15th May 1996.
Dated this 15th May, 1996
PETER S. DUNN, Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The British Architectural Library Trust
Scheme for amendment to the constitution of the charity.
Reference: CH/26562/CDL/01
The Commission proposes to make a scheme for the amendment of the constitution of the charity. A copy of the draft scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commissioners, 27-29, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

The song was familiar and yet quite alien

Listening to Terry Wogan from Oslo on Saturday night felt like having an invisible friend. "Bon chance," said a Swiss dignitary. "Bon chance yourself, you rascal," said Terry in my ear. "Czwdw tarmogong!" said an East European. "That's easy for you to say," quipped the lad. Each time I sniggered, I felt like someone laughing in class, who will be hailed out and asked to identify what exactly is so funny. A proud picture of the Eurovision trophy appeared on our screens — a modernist sculpture made of bronze and stone, representing an outsize cigar wrapped in bandages. "Very nice in its homespun way," approved Terry chummily. "As I think you will agree."

Terry Wogan is a godsend, of course, but no amount of such intimate wisecracking can rescue the Eurovision Song Contest (BBC1) from its main drawback: that by the time of the voting, you

can only remember four of the songs. The human brain just can't contain 23 new tunes; and to play them all again would take all night. So an odd, dysfunctional feeling overtakes you. Having engaged fully in the contest up to now, suddenly your involvement dwindles to purely national matters — to counting the votes for the UK, and watching the Greeks vote shamelessly for Cyprus. When Portugal started getting his votes on Saturday, amid guffaws of disbelief from Wogan, we saw a memory-prompting reaction shot from the young woman who had sung *O Meu Coração Na Tem Cor*. But it was useless. It all seemed years ago, quite frankly.

The Norwegian presentation was highly professional, fronted by a handsome couple (Ingvild and Morten) whose only weakness, predictably, was in the over-rehearsed *Two Runies* stuff. "Ah, here come the knockabouts!"

chered Terry, and more clunky banter ensued. Morten's personality was not as big as his ego, that was the trouble. But thankfully Ingvild shouldered the big job of collecting the scores from the juries, and the last hour zipped along as zippily as it possibly could, with Ireland taking an early lead, and maintaining it by a large margin, and then winning to nobody's surprise. A girl in a long, virginal frock sang *The Voice*, a tributary from the Riverdance. A more vivid contrast to the UK's Gina G. Kika Hayworth hair, bum-wiggling, spangly mini-frock — it is impossible to imagine.

Dennis Potter's *Karaoke* finished last night (BBC1) with the now terminally ill playwright Daniel Fiedl (Albert Finney) bequeathing money to his beloved cockney waitress Sandra, then singing *Pennies from Heaven* ("I've always wanted to do this").

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

and then shooting Hywel Bennett in the head. God-like, the writer dispenses happiness, death or justice, you see. It's a writer creates characters, and then they lob about smoking fags while he thinks "Mm, what am I going to do with you?" Ah yes, as flies to wanton boys are we to playwrights. The trouble is that there are rules of storytelling to prevent an

author's power running out of control. If characters appear to be treated like puppets, the whole mystery collapses. So when Potter himself (as author of *Karaoke*) decided magnanimously to redeem the Richard E. Grant character in last night's final episode, it has been a very clever self-referring meta-fictional trick, but on screen it just looked ridiculously improbable.

Finney did very well with Fiedl, a man who lived in a present world vivid with pain, but who seemed to have no past and no memories (a deficiency that will be rectified, no doubt, in next week's *Lost Lazarus*). Meanwhile, Roy Hudd worked miracles with the role of Fiedl's agent — a man who has little to do besides minister to Fiedl that he finds time to construct Notre-Dame out of matchsticks. Hudd stood his ground magnificently. He was the thespian equivalent of Kipling's *If*. Lines such as

"What a shucking fame" and "Don't you know the rucking time?" would have reduced a lesser man to tears and waltows.

All these god-like figures around! Terry Wogan! Dennis Potter! Daniel Fiedl! On BBC2 on Saturday, we learnt that the whole idea of divine human beings was more or less invented by Alexander the Great. He invented the halo as well. Alexander, the God King was presented by an eager archaeologist called Tony Spawforth, who set off on a spurious quest for Alexander's remains, which may be buried in the Egyptian desert at Siwa, but equally may be somewhere else. As I said, the more interesting speculation was the historical one: that until Alexander, world religions had a firm grip on the difference between gods and human beings. But afterwards, they got confused.

No Bananas (BBC1) deserves a proper review by now, but it's funny how hard it is to force yourself sometimes. This week's third episode contained a few good scenes, especially those concerning bad brother Tom's natural daughter Moira (Keeley Ganev). Since it's so hard to care about any individual when there are two dozen stories going at once, I have decided to make a special effort in Moira's case, on the grounds that she is a Dickensian cockney waitress with tragic potential, and also because she has bright red hair and is easy to spot. Last night she was evacuated to a country chemist's shop, and her host took advantage of her in the night. "I won't hurt you next time, I promise," he said. Had Daniel Fiedl written this scene, he would have written in personally to save her, and shot the chemist in the head. It's a good job he doesn't write everything, I suppose.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (90488)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (21759)

8.00 Breakfast News Extra (21759)

9.00 News (21759) 9.25 Style Counsel (s) (2300138) 9.55 Kilroy (s) (2300177)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (17285)

12.00 News (21759) and weather (1616846)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (s) (5858778)

1.25pm Going for Gold (s) (4348198)

1.00 News (21759) and weather (24846)

1.30 Regional News and weather (82526372)

1.40 Neighbours (21759) (s) (2300138)

2.00 Columbo (21759) (s) (2300138)

3.30 Playdays (s) (2375117) 3.50 Bodger and Badger (s) (1091730) 4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (s) (6392339) 4.10 Fudge (s) (5644778) 4.35 POT (s) (2300138) 5.00 Newsround (s) (2300138) 5.10 Blue Peter (s) (2300138)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (2300138)

6.00 News (21759) and weather (827)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (407)

7.00 That's Showbusiness. Mike Smith is joined by Tracy Shaw, Maria McEneaney, Martine McCutcheon and Gayle Tuley (21759) (s) (1865)

7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck. This week, the NHS hospital that turned down half a million pounds of charity money raised by the local community, and actress Toyah Wilcox looks at the high street boom in homoeopathy (21759) (s) (391)

8.00 EastEnders. Baby Ben's godparents prepare for their great day in church; while Arthur and Pauline opt for a cosy dinner at home (21759) (s) (7285)

8.30 The Liver Birds. Beryl is surprised at how passionate Sandra has become when they both join a demonstration to save a tree (21759) (s) (9020)

9.00 News (21759), regional news and weather (7020)

9.30 Panorama: DIY Justice. Are people being allowed to get away with murder in the name of self-defence? (21759) (263488)

10.10 French and Saunders Go to the Movies. A compilation of cinematic spoofs from recent films. Dawn and Jennifer star in their own versions of *Misery*, *Thelma and Louise* and *Dangerous Liaisons* (s) (21759) (s) (388484) N.J.: 10.10 Room for Improvement 10.40 Salford Show 1996 11.25 French and Saunders 11.55 Omnibus 12.45-2.15am Grievous Bodily Harm

10.40 Omnibus: Degas — the Old Man Mad About Art (21759) (s) (527339)

11.30 Film: Grievous Bodily Harm (1995) starring Colin Firth, Bruno Lawrence and John Waters. A tale of strange murders involving an unconventional Australian crime reporter. His investigations lead to a bereaved husband who is obsessed with the idea that his wife is still alive. He is quite prepared to kill those he suspects are keeping her from him. Directed by Mark Joffe (s) (75827)

1.00am Joffe (s) (618191)

Video Plus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a particular programme. To use the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record, Videorecorder (+), Pluscode (+) and Video Recorder are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am United (s) (2300138) 8.00 Press Your Luck (s) (2300138) 9.00 Live Connection (s) (2300138) 9.45 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 10.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 10.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 11.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 11.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 12.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 12.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 1.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 1.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 2.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 2.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 3.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 3.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 4.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 4.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 5.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 5.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 6.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 6.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 7.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 7.30 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 8.00 The Open Winery Show (s) (2300138) 8.30 The Open 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SE to seek more accountability from senior managers

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH-PROFILE Stock Exchange report is set to demand greater accountability of senior managers to the board. It comes after the sacking of Michael Lawrence, chief executive, and demonstrates that the exchange does not want to repeat its mistakes.

The review into the way the exchange runs itself was commissioned in February by John Kemp-

Welch, chairman. After the removal of two chief executives in a little over two years, Ian Plenderleith and Ian Salter, the exchange's two deputy chairmen, were asked to report on day-to-day working practices. Its completion comes as the exchange's senior appointments and remuneration committee, chaired by John Bond, chief executive of HSBC, nears a decision on the appointment of a new chief executive. A choice is expected next month. The committee is

believed to have begun interviewing candidates and, according to one, "good names have come forward, it is now a question of cutting down the shortlist".

One of the key issues raised in the report is the accountability of the exchange's day-to-day managers to the board. This issue was said to be largely behind the decision to replace Mr Lawrence.

The report focuses on communication between the board, members and users of the exchange, and

on the accountability of exchange directors to the board.

This weekend Mr Kemp-Welch told the Association of Private Client Investment Managers: "We have to ensure we are structured and governed in a way that best enables us to assess the implications for you and your clients of the decisions we take." He added that the two deputy chairmen had "produced an interesting report".

Mr Lawrence's departure followed a year in which corporate

governance at the exchange faltered badly. In January Mr Lawrence was accused of acting without the authority of the board, of having failed to achieve consensus among member firms and market practitioners, and of dominating exchange committees.

The report is likely to recommend a simplification of the exchange's structure. Members of the exchange said the committee structure of the exchange is too complicated. There are more than 20

committees and a series of sub-committees and advisory panels.

Those close to the exchange say that the disasters of last year demonstrated that "communication between the exchange and its members must be very much on the agenda. It is essential to its proper function".

In his speech, Mr Kemp-Welch indicated that the exchange is already taking steps to make sure the views of all users of the stock market are represented. He said he

was particularly taken with a proposal in the corporate governance report "that we should create a specific group to advise on issues related to private client business". This is aimed at giving the views of private investors proper representation.

Separately, the exchange is to introduce a 24-hour suspension on companies shares when there is an unexplained volatility in share price or in the volume of shares traded.

Allied staff to split £40m

BY SARAH BAGNALL

MORE than 500 staff at Allied Carpets, Britain's biggest carpet retailer, are set to share in a £40 million bonanza when the company floats this summer.

As revealed by *The Times* earlier this year, Allied is seeking a listing in a move that will value the company at more than £200 million. Allied may also raise up to £50 million in extra funds.

The move, confirmed yesterday, will make the group's senior management team, led by Ray Nethercott, managing director, paper millionaires. The directors own 5.4 per cent of the company's equity, worth more than £10 million, the bulk of which they intend to leave invested in the company.

A further 14.3 per cent is held by more than 500 Allied staff, from senior managers to sales staff, while Asda, the supermarket group, and CINVEN, the venture capitalist, each hold 40 per cent.

The 200-strong chain was formed three years ago when Asda merged its Allied Carpets subsidiary with Carpetland Carpet Centres. Of the shares held by staff, the bulk are in the hands of the 160 people who invested between £500 and £5,000 in the original buyout of Carpetland. Mr Nethercott expects many staff to keep their shares.

Pru faces revolt on directors' bonuses

BY JASON NISSE

THE Prudential Corporation, which owns 3.5 per cent of the UK stock market, is to face an embarrassing shareholder revolt over its new executive bonus schemes.

PIRC, the pensions advisory body, is telling its members who own nearly 3 per cent of the Pru's shares, to vote against a new long-term incentive plan that would reward senior directors even if the company is an underperformer within the top 100 quoted UK companies. PIRC will campaign against the scheme until the Pru's annual meeting next week.

The scheme starts paying out if the Pru performs better than the 60th highest performer in the FT-SE 100. If it is average for example, performing 50th, Peter Davis, Pru's chief executive, will receive a £100,000 bonus on top of his £400,000-a-year basic salary. "The Pru should be leading by example," said Anne Simpson of PIRC. "They cannot take the attitude 'do as I say not do as I do'."

PIRC is likely to be joined by some of the market's biggest fund managers, including firms that have supported the

Pru when it has pressured industrial companies for overpaying directors in the past.

The scheme breaches the guidelines recently set down by two of the UK's largest investment groups, Norwich Union and Standard Life.

Earlier this year Standard wrote to all the chairmen of FT-SE 100 firms telling them they would vote against overly generous schemes. It is understood to still be discussing the new scheme with the Pru but Guy Jubb, Standard's corporate governance manager, said: "In general we do vote against schemes other than those that reward for high performance not mediocrity."

Norwich is also believed to be putting pressure on the Pru. A spokeswoman said: "We feel it is wrong to reward below-average performance and have a policy of voting against any long-term incentive plan that does."

A spokesman for the Pru defended the scheme saying: "Our hurdles are relatively high. We think it is a fair target to beat 40 of the top 100 companies." The Pru is one of more than a dozen firms that have brought in long-term plans that reward under-performance.

Many institutions have complained about these plans, and in the case of British Gas the plan was restructured so that it only paid out if the company was in the top half of FT-SE performance.

Some institutions also feel that it is fairer to base performance-related bonus schemes on comparisons with the way a company performs relative to its peers.

At Barclays' annual meeting this month shareholders representing almost 44 million of the bank's shares registered their objection to a new performance share plan for directors and senior managers. One institutional shareholder is believed to have been behind the protest. The new scheme will compare Barclays' shareholder return with other companies in the FT-SE 100 index over a three-year period.

Among the firms whose schemes are coming under fire are P&O, Guinness, GKN, Capital Radio and Carlton Communications.



Simon Curtis of SBC Warburg, which has priced the shares at 390p, the top of the range

Railtrack promises instant 20p gain

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS who applied for more than 300 shares in Railtrack will see their allocations scaled down by up to 75 per cent, the Government said yesterday.

Last night, City dealers were forecasting an instant profit for investors of 20p on each partly paid 190p share when trading starts this morning.

In spite of an increase in the retail offer from 30 per cent to 58.5 per cent of the total sale, private investors have applied for almost twice as many shares as are being sold to them. The demand has delighted ministers and City advisers to the sale, which has been dogged by political controversy and public suspicion. Registered applicants for up to 300 shares will

receive their full allocation but larger applications will be scaled back — applicants for 1,000 shares will receive 480; for 2,000 the figure will be 510.

Only registered applications for 2,500 or more shares, or non-registered applications for more than 500 shares have been thrown out. A total of 665,000 applications were received for 391 million shares, with an average application of 587 shares. About 44 per cent of applicants will receive a full application and about 97 per cent will receive at least some of the shares they applied for.

The offer received a particularly strong response from Peps, with all Pep bids met in full and 35 million shares going into the saving schemes. The institutional offer ended about 14 times subscribed as the City put aside political risk fears and bid

for the generous 18 per cent first-year yield. Rory Tapper, a director at SBC Warburg, the Government's lead advisers, said the institutional response had exceeded recent comparable sales, such as last year's second tranche of generating company shares. The level of demand had allowed Warburgs to price the shares at 390p, the top end of the range. At that price the company will be valued at £1.93 billion, making it Britain's 97th biggest quoted company.

The expected first-day 10 per cent premium will push its market capitalisation close to the £2.1 billion needed to enter the FT-SE 100, which requires a company to be ranked in the top 90.

Under the two-installment payment scheme retail investors have only paid 190p per share up front.



Tapper: advisory role

Fowler anger over leaks

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A SENIOR Conservative MP last night defended himself against accusations that he was standing in the way of one of the biggest foreign investments in Britain and vowed he would not be "rolled over" by leaks from within the Whitehall machine.

Sir Norman Fowler, former Conservative chairman, confirmed he was insisting that a public inquiry should be held before there is any question of Philips, the Dutch electronics group, being allowed to develop a £1 billion components plant on 500 acres of green belt farmland in his constituency of Sutton Coldfield. Sir

Norman told *The Times* last night that he had demanded from both Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, explanations into how information about the Philips involvement and his own talks with ministers on the issue had been leaked to the press.

The Prime Minister is reported to be keen on the development, which could create up to 6,000 jobs. But talks are said to have run into trouble because of Sir Norman's opposition. He said that the land apparently for development has been chosen by Birmingham Council. "They are the owners. They get the proceeds from the sale. If there is no inquiry, the council will decide whether the land should be built on and whether there should be factories there. I simply see that as against the normal rules of natural justice that the public should be consulted."

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Nobody does it better

British Gas fears more price curbs

BY SARAH BAGNALL

BRITISH GAS is bracing itself for a further battering next week when Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Ofgas, unveils a new formula for domestic gas prices.

Next Tuesday, the industry watchdog is due to announce pricing controls for British Gas's UK supply business covering the five years to 2002. The announcement comes after last week's decision by Ms Spottiswoode to cut the prices charged to independent shippers by TransCo, British Gas's pipeline arm.

Now Ms Spottiswoode is poised to stamp her mark on British Gas Energy (BGE), the company's UK supply business. The controls are expected to leave the cap on domestic bills largely unchanged. But Ms Spottiswoode is said to be



Spottiswoode: targeting BGE

planning to curtail BGE's ability to pass on to consumers any rise in the price of its own gas supply. This would hurt profits, particularly as it is expected to £40 million in "take or pay" gas contracts, which require it to pay double the current market price for gas.

Lawyer steps up Barings campaign

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE senior lawyer acting for the Barings bondholders action group, whose members lost £100 million when it crashed last year, is to step up his campaign to persuade some of Britain's biggest companies to sever their business links with the merchant bank.

Jonathan Stone wrote this weekend to Brian Smith, chairman of Cable and Wireless, pointing out that a number of bondholders were "also likely to be shareholders in, or customers of, C&W". Barings, which was bought last year by ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group for £1 in return for footing the £80 million bill, is a corporate finance adviser to C&W.

Mr Stone, who earlier this month issued writs claiming £100 million in compensation

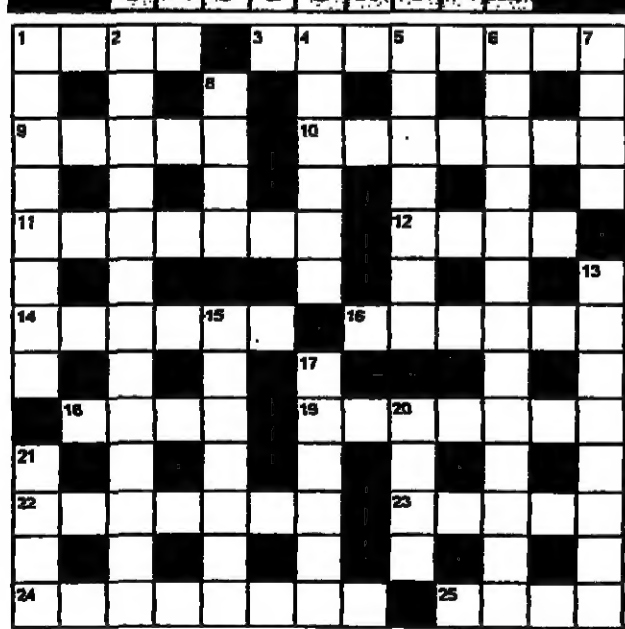
from City institutions and former directors of the bank, has written to Sir Robin Ibbotson, chairman of Lloyds Bank, which used ING Barings to advise on acquisition of TSB.

Mr Stone said ING Barings had further rubbed salt into the wounds of the bondholders by employing, and continuing to employ, Andrew Tuckey, the bank's former deputy chairman, at an astronomical rate of remuneration.

He said a number of City institutions were refusing to deal with ING Barings "and we are encouraged by this fact because it reinforces the views that we have expressed about the inequitable treatment meted out to the bondholders". ING Barings declined to comment.

Self-rule pledge, page 37

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 786

ACROSS

- 1 Rescue; except (4)
- 3 Formal state etiquette (8)
- 9 Nearby; a hostelry (5)
- 10 Taste (7)
- 11 Idea (7)
- 12 Cap-brim; hilltop (4)
- 14 Mildly improper (6)
- 16 Gregor —, genetics pioneer (6)
- 18 Grape plant (4)
- 19 Toothed one-way-motion device (7)
- 22 Teacher's address (7)
- 23 Concert-party instrument (5)
- 24 Rule out in advance (8)
- 25 Appear (4)

DOWN

- 1 Beneficial; promoting health (8)
- 2 Descending spiral (7,6)
- 4 Disprove (6)
- 5 Tread down (7)
- 6 Keep altering decision (4,3,6)
- 7 Tempt (4)
- 8 Beat furiously; sell (slang) (4)
- 13 Very thick (sole); declared party policy (8)
- 15 Not the same (7)
- 17 An intimate (6)
- 20 Hollow cylinder (4)
- 21 Applaud (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 785

ACROSS: 1 Mumps 4 Grammar 8 Reservoir 9 Nil 10 EU 11 Testament 12 Bench 13 Dig up 16 Newspaper 18 Oak 20 Far 21 Inevitable 22 Treadle 23 Suez

DOWN: 1 Merge 2 Mission 3 Stretch a point 4 Grouse 5 Aids and graces 6 Maise 7 Roll-top 12 Benefit 14 Goodbye 15 Update 17 Worse 19 Kneel

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